

THE TIMES
1785-1985

Tomorrow

Rounds in the sun
Your guide to the best golfing holidays in the world

Holland's hero
Bernard Levin on how he doubled on the Dutch

What's yours
A sip-by-sip comparison of French and California wines

In the ring
Colin Jones and his chances of winning a world boxing title

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by three winners yesterday. Mr J. Stuart of London, Miss S. Jones, of Rington, Avon and Miss Jackie Wood of London each receive £666.66.

Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

Government cuts grants by £100m

A four-month moratorium on the payment of regional development grants, to save more than £100 million in the coming financial year, was announced yesterday by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Mr John Smith, Opposition front bench spokesman, said the move would leave expanding companies "in the lurch".

Shares sale

The Royal College of Nursing has agreed to sell shares in tobacco companies. The move comes after a British Medical Association report showing many health organizations have shares in companies with tobacco interests.

Gallows plea

Amnesty International called on President Nimeiry of Sudan to spare the lives of five opposition leaders, including a man of 76 due to hang today.

Space senator

Senator Jake Garn of Utah will be a crew member on next month's space shuttle flight.

Driver's tale

Father Popiezowski's driver gave a graphic account of his escape from Polish secret police on the night of the priest's kidnap.

BaE 'fraud'

Mr David Steel has accused the Government of issuing a "fraudulent" prospectus for the sale of British Aerospace shares in 1981.

Stonehenge plan

Ideas to restore and improve the setting of Stonehenge to protect it from tourists have come from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

Cyprus hopes

The Cyprus summit opened at the UN in New York with an outward show of goodwill but profound differences beneath the surface.

Rajiv clean-up

Party defections by MPs and other corrupt political practices will become a thing of the past.

England held up

England's hopes of an innings victory in the fourth Test match against India were reduced by a third-wicket partnership of 190 between Amarnath and Azharuddin.

John Woodcock, page 22

Leader page, 11

Letters: On Sterling, from Mr Roy Jenkins, MP, "blood-doping", from Dr N. C. Craig Sharp.

Lebanon: articles: Southern Lebanon; rate capping.

Features, pages 8-10

Time to legislate against surveillance; Le Monde: vive la difference; Trouble to come for British Rail; Nancy Reagan's leading part; Mitterrand's opera house.

Obituary, page 12

Professor W. I. Card, Vassili Trunoff.

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Kinnock and left in storm on pit debate demand

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock clashed head-on with left-wing MPs over the miners' strike in the Commons last night after he had openly attacked them for demanding a parliamentary debate on the dispute.

After the House had been suspended for 20 minutes because more than a dozen MPs had refused to sit down - part of their demonstration was in support of the demand for a debate - Mr Kinnock said dismissively: "I don't know who they are trying to help".

That comment was widely taken as an admission that any debate would be used by the Government to expose the vulnerability of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Later, Mr Kinnock rounded on the left wing at a parliamentary party meeting, in terms which made plain that he saw the miners' strike as a lost cause but a cause with great power to harm the Labour Party.

"Talk about attacking the Government! Mr God, Maggie Thatcher could do with an attack like that every day of the week", he said. The demonstration had been utter self-indulgence.

The left-wing MPs are members of the Campaign Group, which met on Wednesday to plan yesterday's attempted disruption and said last night that they will continue the same tactics next week.

But Mr Kinnock advised the MPs, many of them representing the militant coalfields, to talk to their constituents, to look in today's newspapers and to search their consciences. Did they really believe that their activities would "shove forward one half of one millimetre the possibility of a miners' victory or the prospect of Labour getting to power?"

In the Commons, the protest of the left was directed against the Government's failure to stage a debate. But in reality the attack was aimed at the leadership of the Labour Party.

Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour

Other pit news, page 2

Parliament, page 4

Colliery officials may quit NUM

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Moderates in the 16,500-member Colliery Officials and Staff Area of the National Union of Mineworkers are proposing a breakaway group to join the anti-strike "dissidents" in Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire.

That latest evidence of a break-up in the miners' union came as the union's three national officials decided to make an on-the-spot appeal to branch officials of the 3,200 pitmen in South Derbyshire before they vote on a critical rule change next week.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, his vice-president, Mr Michael McGahey, and the general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield, will ask miners in the coalfield, who have defied the strike call almost to a man, to stay an integral part of the union. The men are being recommended in a secret ballot to drop rule 3 which makes the area subject to the authority of the pro-strike national executive.

But while the three officials attempt to put down the revolt in South Derbyshire, it is springing up elsewhere. A big Midlands branch of COSA has initiated a motion for the area's annual conference in May calling for steps to separate it from the national union.

COSA, which represents clerks and underground chargehands, is traditionally a bastion of the right, and its general secretary, Mr Trevor Bell, has been the most consistent critic of the executive's conduct of the dispute.

But he insisted last night: "We are part of the NUM and any decision to do otherwise will have to be done in a regular and constitutional manner. But our best interests are served with a united national union."

Apart from the policy motion to the colliery officials' conference, Mr Bell said he was under pressure from members writing in to say they no longer felt their best interests were served by remaining part of the national union.

Should colliery officials secede in the way that Nottinghamshire is already doing, and in which it may be followed by nearly 6,000 men from South Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

Continued on back page, col 6



Mr Scargill leaving a miners' rally at Peterlee yesterday as secession moves mounted within his union

Three shot dead in Army payroll ambush

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Two unarmed soldiers and a retired Army officer were shot dead yesterday in a £17,000 payroll robbery south of Edinburgh. They had been delivering the money from a bank in Penicuik, Lothian, to the Scottish Infantry training depot at Glenrose barracks.

When their Land-Rover failed to return after picking up the money the alarm was raised and an Army and police search began.

The abandoned vehicle was found on an isolated track leading to Glenrose reservoir and the three bodies were found some distance away, at the end of a trail of blood in the snow, near a disused cottage about four miles from Penicuik.

The police identified the three men last night as a retired major, Mr David Forbes Cunningham, aged 56, from the Elgin area, who was on the civilian staff at Glenrose barracks; Staff Sergeant Terence Stephen Hosker, aged 39, a bachelor, of the Royal Army Pay Corps, from Bradford, West Yorkshire; and Private John Mickie Thomson, aged 25, of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Regiment, who was married with a child and came from the Borders area.

Staff Sergeant Hosker had studied to become an accountant in readiness for when he left the Army next year after years.

His brother, Brian, of Wolsingham, said: "Terry was a smashing lad and made it almost straight from school and spent a lot of his time studying and going on managerial courses."

The Lothian and Border police could not rule out terrorist involvement in the robbery. The payroll has not been recovered.

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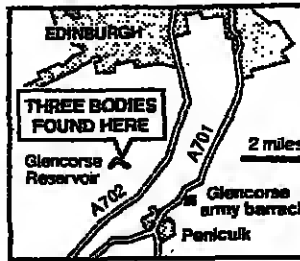
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Dunlop option may give Edwardes £3.5m

Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of Dunlop Holdings, earned a hypothetical profit of £3.5 million yesterday after the shares of the ailing tyres and industrial products group had their Stock Exchange listing restored (see Griffiths writes).

The shares were suspended at 25p in December while the final details of a financial rescue package for the company were hammered out. As part of this proposed package, unveiled on Tuesday, Dunlop's bankers have granted Sir Michael the option to purchase nearly 2.1 million shares at a price of 14p.

When dealings in the Dunlop shares closed yesterday the price stood at 31p.

The rescue package and Sir Michael's share option scheme must still be approved by the company's shareholders.

Yesterday's sharp increase in the share price took the City by surprise. When the proposed rescue packages was first revealed most analysts expected that the best that could be expected was a price of 20p.

Professor Robert Pritchard, a spokesman for the Dunlop Shareholders Association, said it was a "fine package" for the small shareholder.

Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Kohl tribute to British defence role

From Michael Binjon, Bonn

As Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrives here today for a day of talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the West German leader has paid tribute to Britain's defence partnership with his country, and spoken of his hopes for a new phase of East-West cooperation in the wake of the Geneva arms control talks.

In an interview with *The Times*, Herr Kohl said the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union would give new impetus to a range of arms control and disarmament talks now going on. But he added that Europe's interests had to be defended and asserted.

The Chancellor spoke of the close security cooperation between Britain and West Germany and paid tribute to the British Army of the Rhine and the British forces in Berlin. He called Britain "one of our most important and reliable Alliance partners in ensuring freedom and peace".

The Chancellor called for a thorough reform of the European Community's institutions and suggested a new Treaty of Rome was needed.

Questioned about his attitude to the fortieth anniversary of VE Day on May 8, Herr Kohl said it was not a day to be celebrated but to commemorate the liberation from National Socialism.

It should be also an occasion when Germany and her allies, including Britain, marked the birth of a new democratic state.

● LONDON: Mrs Thatcher will fly to the United States for talks with President Reagan on February 20. Downing Street announced last night.

Kohl interview, page 7

Tubes may shelter homeless

By Staff Reporters

bodies in Paris, where a similar operation, opening the Métro to the homeless, was carried out over Christmas.

The main problem facing LRT would be how to make Underground stations safe for down-and-outs at night - the electric currents on the lines shut down for only three hours every night, between 1 and 4 am.

Despite the problems, an LRT spokesman said last night that it wished to respond as "humanely and sympathetically" to the present crisis as possible.

There are an estimated 10,000 homeless in London, with 500 sleeping rough in the Embankment and Waterloo areas of London alone, and all

hostels for the homeless are said to be at breaking point.

A spokesman for Shelter, the charity for the homeless, said yesterday that many of these people would die if a solution to the problem was not found immediately.

"It is particularly the young, who have come to the capital looking for work and who are not used to sleeping rough, who will suffer most," he said.

The Arctic weather conditions have brought chaos to many parts of Britain as blizzards swept across the country yesterday.

Snow storms buffeted Devon and Wales, with conditions on many roads described as "atrocious" and in Yeovil, Somerset, a fireman died when

Continued on back page, col 5

US, Russia to talk on Middle East

From Mobin Ali, Washington

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed in principle to hold talks at expert level on the Middle East, a White House spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman explained that the talks were a result of President Reagan's proposal to the General Assembly last September for "periodic consultations at policy level about regional problems" with the Soviet Union.

Mr Reagan said the objectives of a political dialogue with the Russians were to help avoid miscalculation, reduce the potential risk of US-Soviet confrontations and help the people in areas of conflict to find peaceful solutions.

No date or agenda for the talks has yet been agreed.

American officials have emphasized that the US has no plans to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace negotiating process.

"The only realistic path to peace is direct negotiations among the parties directly concerned, based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," a spokesman said.

The proposal for US-Soviet talks is likely to be discussed with President Mubarak of Egypt, when he meets President Reagan at the White House on March 12.

● GENEVA: "We're going to watch it carefully, we don't know what it means," Mr David Kimche, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Office, said in commenting on the decision of the US and the Russians to discuss the Middle East (see Alan McGregor writes).

Until waits, page 6

Leading article, page 11

Americans reject joint action to bring down dollar rates

By David Smith and Bailey Morris

The finance ministers of Britain, Germany, France and Japan mounted a sharp attack in Washington yesterday on the United States over its \$200 billion budget deficit.

The attack, led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, came at the conclusion of a meeting of the Group of Five ministers.

On the key question of concerted intervention in the foreign exchange markets to bring down the dollar, however, the Americans made clear from the outset that this was not on the agenda. "We have not changed our policy on this," a United States Treasury official said.

The one-day meeting appears to have achieved very little apart from acquainting Mr James Baker, the new US Treasury Secretary, with the strength of feeling of America's

international partners on the budget deficit.

The foreign exchange markets, which were in a two-day lull before the meeting because of fears of action to bring down the dollar, could start another upward run for the American currency.

New York foreign exchange dealers said yesterday that the dollar could quickly climb to DM3.25 and push down the pound to \$1.10.

In quiet trading yesterday, the pound edged down 10 points to \$1.185, after an earlier rise to \$1.1280. The pound lost over a penny against the mark and the sterling index was down 0.1 at 71.2.

The attack on the American deficit comes as Republican leaders in the US Senate continue to strive to come up with a plan to halve over three years America's \$200 billion annual deficit.

Britain's own budget deficit, the public sector borrowing requirement, is also running ahead of plans, it was revealed yesterday. The PSBR in December was £573 million, despite the receipt of £1.5 billion from sales of British Telecom shares and £500 million from change of VAT rules requiring more speedy payment by importers.

Public spending is running ahead of target. Supply services expenditure in April-December, the first nine months of the financial year, was up by 7.1 per cent on the corresponding period of 1983/84. The Treasury target is 5.75 per cent.

Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Now Weinberger wants radar back

Washington. - Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, believes that any "Star Wars" weapons deployed in space would need to be backed up by a conventional radar-based, defence system against nuclear bombers - a system drastically reduced by America 10 years ago because it was regarded as obsolete in an age of nuclear missiles (Christopher Thomas writes).

In an interview published in *The New York Times* yesterday, he said that the continental air defence system should be restored to ensure that protection against nuclear attack was thoroughly reliable. President Reagan has in the past few years sought more money from Congress to replace ageing radar

installations and other facilities, but his requests.

● MOSCOW: *Pravda* suggested today that the United States' insistence on continuing its "Star Wars" space defence programme would threaten the forthcoming US-Soviet arms limitation talks.

Belgian mission and Hart in Moscow, page 6

Phone boxes to profit from facelift

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom has unveiled a £160 million modernization package to make the public telephone network the best in the world in 10 years. New telephone kiosks and credit card telephones will be introduced at airports, railway stations and other heavily-used locations.

The plan is the most significant rethink since the public network came into being about 75 years ago. The 76,500 payphones will all be electronic and push button in two years and the network, which loses the corporation £30 million a year could be in profit by the end of the 10-year modernization programme.

The number of phonecard kiosks are to be increased from 1,000 to 8,000 by the end of this year.

Within the next few months subscribers in Bristol will be able to make calls from a public

kiosk by punching in special account numbers. The customer is billed at home in the usual fashion.

The credit card service, CreditCall, will allow calls to be made using Visa, Amex or Access cards. Users insert the card into the equipment, which is connected via British Telecom lines to the card company's computer to verify the card.

Telephone calls are made by direct dialling and users are billed by the credit card company.

Mr Tann Vallance, British Telecom's managing director, local communications service said: "The new British Telecom will take a radical approach to the problems inherent in today's outdated payphone service. We aim to encourage greater use of payphones by making them more convenient and attractive to use and by



extending the facilities they offer.

This investment programme will convert public payphones in the United Kingdom into a

modern, reliable, clean and profitable service.

Main points of the package: £35 million to be spent over next 10 years replacing 76,500 payphones with new US look. Red kiosks will be kept where there are special local reasons. £15 million will be spent on modernizing equipment: all kiosks will become push button and electronic.

New credit card service to be launched. Pilot scheme will start with 32 units at Heathrow airport made by the British company Plessey and another 10 installed at Waterloo station, manufactured by AGT and Urmet-Sud.

New account number service where customers can have calls billed to a private telephone account number is to begin in Bristol in the next few months. The telephone card network to be extended from 1,000 to 8,000 kiosks by the end of the year.

SALE LAST FEW DAYS!

CAMERE - Fine Bedstead in Honey or Walnut Finish eg. 5'0" was £470 now £376

CUDDLER Sofa Bed - Comfortable and Practical. Converts to Double Bed. Beige Cotton Twill Fabric. was £425 now £299

PETER NEED - Pure Egyptian Cotton Sheets & Duvet Covers. CHRISTIAN DIOR - Duvet Covers, Sheets, Pillowcases, Towels & Designer Bathrobes. **PURE SALK** - Quilts, Comforters, Cushions. **HALF PRICE QUILTS**

SLEEPERZEE SEVATOR - Divan Set with pocket spring Interior 3'6" x 6'3" was £400 now £260 4'6" x 6'3" was £550 now £355 7'0" x 7'0" was £1134 now £735 Large range of Mattress Sets from Relyon, Sleepzee and Vispring. Prices from £135 All models are available as Zipped and Linked units.

SPECIAL SALE OFFER - REDLON CAMI Mattress and Spring Edge Divan Set 8'0" x 7'0" was £2700 now £999

DERBY - Traditional Brass Bedstead eg. 5'0" was £645 now £548

ITL 130 Tree Lamp - Six overhanging branches supported by marble base was £275 now £220

LOVER'S KNOT - All Brass Bedstead eg. 5'0" was £845 now £699

VICTORIA - Screen Mirror was £460 now £368

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60/62 West Street, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, Tel: 0422 839759

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57/59 Poole Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Tel: 0202 763872

24/26 Castle Street, Edinburgh, (031) 225 2575

Steel in complaint on BAE hare sale

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The Government was yesterday reported to the chairman of the Steel Exchange Council by David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, for issuing a "raucous" prospectus for the sale of British Aerospace shares in 1981.

On Monday, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced the Commons that the Government would sell its 48.43 per cent shareholding in the company later this year. In a letter to the minister yesterday, Mr Steel expressed his "deep misgivings" about the hare sale.

The 1981 BAE prospectus has said: "Following the offer for all HMG does not intend to sell any more of its shareholding in the company for the foreseeable future. HMG has also made it clear that, in any event, it intends to retain a shareholding of 25 per cent of the voting rights ordinarily exercisable in general meetings."

Mr Steel said: "In plain English, therefore, the prospectus in 1981 was fraudulent."

Mr Tebbit told MPs on Monday that there would be no need for the Government to hold 25 per cent of the shares because a special blocking share would be issued to give it a veto on foreign share ownership.

Mr Steel asked whether such a device would be tolerated in other situations, and he said he had been told that significant parts of British Telecom equity had switched to foreign investors.

Gas safety may be tightened

By Richard Dowden

New gas safety standards may be needed after the explosion in Putney, south-east London, last week which killed eight people, the head of the team investigating the incident said yesterday.

Mr Frank Swain, south London area director of the Health and Safety Executive, said his team was examining all gas accidents since 1977 "to see if a more stringent interpretation of the King committee recommendations is needed."

The King committee reported in 1977 on gas safety.

Mr John Cullen, chairman of the Health and Safety Executive, said that a leak had been found in 50-year-old piping at the back of Newham House, the block blown apart by the explosion.

● Mrs Elizabeth Garratty aged 72, of Clay Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey, was taken to East Grinstead Hospital suffering from severe burns and shock yesterday after a gas explosion shattered her flat.

● Part of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, was evacuated after a gas leak was discovered. The area was sealed off and 60 people were evacuated from their homes.

● A cloud of hydrochloric acid vapour spread over the Severn Channel after a leak at the Tennessee Organics chemical plant at Avonmouth.

● Health officials are investigating the cause of a gas cloud in Essex believed to have come from an oil refinery. Hundreds of people were warned to keep doors and windows closed.

The stresses of communities waiting for settlement with honour

Moderates yearn for compromise in Scargill's jobs crusade

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Moderate miners' leaders are seeking a new initiative to get talks restarted before the National Coal Board achieves its target of persuading 51 per cent of strikers to return.

They want a more flexible, two-pronged approach on pay and the crucial issue of pit closures, but they do not command anything like a majority on the 26-man executive of the National Union of Mineworkers.

And as the traditionally right-wing areas make louder and louder successional noises, it is unlikely that the moderates will ever win over the dominant centre-left coalition, which favours continuing the bitter struggle that pundits outside the industry have written off as a lost cause.

In private, coalfield leaders who make up the union's day-to-day governing body are frank about the strains and stresses that the dispute in its eleventh month, is causing. But they will not publicly admit defeat, or its possibility.

That, they insist, "would be like betraying our members, who have sacrificed so much."

The furthest they will go is to admit that most miners are ready to resume work, if there is a "honourable settlement". They are vague about what such a deal might be, although they point out that many pits closed in the 10 years since *Plan for Coal* was drawn up, and practically all shut on grounds that could be termed "uneconomic".

Mr Jim Colgan, Midlands area member of the NUM executive, said: "Most of my men on strike would like to go back to work but the Government is deliberately holding the NCB back from negotiations to allow the anti-trade union working miners' committee to consolidate their position and split the union."

His perception that there is a "dead hand of Number 10" on the controls is widely shared among the strikers, who also repeat without embarrassment of sense of naivete that this is a strike about jobs, their own and those of their children.

They say what they mean and mean what they say, and the fervour with which they believe it has turned the conflict into a crusade rather than a run-of-the-mill industrial dispute.

Hence, perhaps, the evident lack of long-range thinking as to how it can be ended.

Mr Arthur Scargill, fund-

amentalist union president, was back in the pulpit again yesterday at three rallies in the North-east, calling on his flock to stand firm and arguing: "It is a question of keeping our nerve and determination, retaining a spirit and will and saying to ourselves in January 1985: 'Thank God I am a picket and not a scab. When the miners return to work after a negotiated settlement they will walk back in the knowledge that you retained your pride and your honour and your commitment as a human being and as a member of the finest union in the world'."

In the absence of strike pay and industrial support in the power stations where it counts, that is almost the only comfort the strikers have. Rhetoric is thin fare, but 70 per cent of the workforce are subsisting on it 45 weeks after they walked out at Cortonwood, South Yorkshire, last March, on the coal board's figures.

The few moderates on the executive who want a swift compromise argue that there should be two separate negotiations with the board: through the industry's joint national negotiating committee on pay and conditions; and through the coal industry national consultative council on the situation in the industry and a reorganized *Plan for Coal*.

Both steps would be a bargaining tack towards the NCB. The 15-man union side of the JNCC is a more politically balanced body than the three national officials which has handled negotiations so far, and to talk about colliery closures through CINCC would bring in the pit deputies and management unions who accept that there must be an economic dimension to pit closures.

The board pins its hopes on the drift back to work, hoping that the steady haemorrhaging of support for the strike will finally compel the NUM leadership to concede, at the point of exhaustion, that they must accept that collieries will close when the industry deems them non-viable financially.

However, the prediction from inside Yorkshire, the coalfield where it all started, is that the strike will go on "beyond March and April" because the board and the Government have underestimated the depth of bitterness and determination to stick it out.

At the end of Mr Scargill's speech there were queues of young miners and their wives waiting on the stage for him to autograph posters and scraps of paper. The chant "Here we go, here we go" has almost become his anthem during the strike which echoes round the hall.

Mr Scargill claimed that the

national union of Mineworkers' president went to Peterlee, co Durham, to tell his members that in the eleventh month of the strike, and with no sign of any offer of new negotiations from the National Coal Board, he was still confident of victory.

He also appeared to call for a return to mass picketing, which has largely faded away.

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One woman and her passion for a valley

From Tim Jones
Nant-y-Moel

Mrs Muriel Williams, of Nant-y-Moel in the Ogmore Valley, Mid Glamorgan, where she was once mayor of the local borough council, sees the miners' strike in simple terms.

Nant-y-Moel exists because of coal, and so does the rest of the valley community. To Mrs Williams it is as simple and as serious as that.

"God help us," she said. "If Mrs Thatcher wins this one, then you can say goodbye to justice for the working man because if she destroys our union there will be nothing left."

The little community is dependent economically on the wages earned by the 600 miners who in normal times have to travel to pits away from the valley to earn their living.

The two local pits having been closed by the coal board.

Mrs Williams knows that if their jobs go, then no new industry will be attracted to her beautiful, but isolated valley.

In the valley there are two choirs, a brass band, three youth clubs, a drama group and five rugby clubs. There are even those who dare to play football.

People help each other through adversity. "We have our culture and our traditions," she said. "We won't let anything come between us."

The people in the South seem to have no idea of our problems or appreciation of our

communities. It almost seems that Thatcher is punishing the Welsh nation because we dare to vote for socialism."

Mr Arthur Lock, a former union official at the Western colliery, one of the two local closed pits, said: "Why on earth do they think we are fighting to defend stinking jobs

in the pitch black? There are no lavatories or lunch-breaks, no lights or scenery. We are fighting because our community and our culture depends on it."

Mrs Williams agreed. "They won't break us. Our fear is that once again others will crack and we will be left alone. But we will not bend."

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Mrs Muriel Williams: A determined fighter for her valley.

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Thames TV head called to IBA after Dallas deal

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

Thames Television found yesterday that the glory of its secret deal to snatch *Dallas* from the hands of the BBC was short-lived. Far from being the kind of entrepreneurial scoop of which it might have been proud, the deal left most television observers convinced that its architects would not last one minute in the lower rungs of Ewing Oil.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority called in Mr Bryan Cowgill, Thames' managing director, for talks yesterday about the way the next autumn series of *Dallas* was bought for £55,000 an episode, a record price, in talks which were unknown both to the BBC and Thames' fellow ITV companies.

At the same time, *Dallas* failed to make the TV top ten and the rest of the ITV network was still angry about the way the series was bought, and decided to meet next week to decide whether to show it. Two of the largest companies, Granada and Yorkshire, have said that they will not screen the series, and others are expected to follow suit.

The IBA said that the meeting with Mr Cowgill was "purely informational".

ITV companies now fear that Thames' action will result in a higher levy on their finances by the Exchequer and substantially increased subscriptions to Channel Four. The commercial network is negotiating on both points with the Treasury and the Home Office. The companies had hoped to stop the Treasury switching the levy from profits to revenue, and to limit the Channel Four subscriptions to a "cost of living" increase.

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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

There was a devastating moment in the House of Commons debate on unemployment this week when Dr David Owen described Mr Nigel Lawson's style as "a strange mixture of insouciance, indifference, intransigence and then sheer incompetence".

It was not what Dr Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, said that mattered; that was no more than standard political abuse. It was what the Conservative backbenchers did not say. There was not a squeak of protest from them, if only in their gloom they regarded the Chancellor of the Exchequer as past defending.

At the time, I thought that this might well denote serious trouble for the Government, both a damaging decline in the Chancellor's standing and mounting disillusionment with his economic policy among Conservative MPs. I believe that the position is a little more complex than that.

The criticism of Mr Lawson's political failings is widespread. Perhaps it might be argued that his speech in the unemployment debate was not quite so bad as some of his other recent parliamentary performances. But that is not the kind of compliment that any self-respecting politician would cherish.

Heath's shafts more effective

The time has passed when one might hope to be making a valid original point by drawing a distinction between the depth of his economic knowledge and his lack of political skills. That is a commonplace judgement among Conservative MPs. But the form of that criticism indicates that the picture is by no means all black for the Chancellor, and still less so for his policies. In the past, many have hoped that the picture would be all black for the Chancellor, and still less so for his policies. In the past, many have hoped that the picture would be all black for the Chancellor, and still less so for his policies.

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Burglar was on the run when he stole £750,000 antiques from Waddesdon

Richard Haynes, who burgled historic houses, has been sentenced at Aylesbury Crown Court to 15 years imprisonment to be served after he has completed a previous seven-year prison term from which he escaped.

Among the burglaries Haynes admitted was one at the National Trust's Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, in May 1983, when he stole antique snuff boxes worth £750,000.

Mr Justice Verner told Haynes, whose seven-year jail term ends in the summer of 1987: "Anyone who has read these papers will not doubt that you are an expert criminal and it would be an insult to treat you in any other way." Haynes, aged 30, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty on January 2 to five charges of burglary, three charges of escaping from custody, possessing drugs and firearms offences.

Details can only now be disclosed after an order by the judge which prevented publicity during the trial of an alleged accomplice.

The trial of Charles Regan, aged 30, of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, accused among other charges, of burgling Waddesdon Manor

with Haynes, ended at Aylesbury Crown Court yesterday when the prosecution decided to offer no further evidence against him.

Mr Regan had been acquitted earlier this week of burgling Waddesdon Manor and two charges of assisting Haynes when the judge ruled that there was insufficient evidence against him.

Mr Justice Verner decided to discharge the jury trying Mr Regan on further charges of assisting Haynes and assisting an escaped prisoner. The move came after a juror overheard something outside court.

For Haynes' trial a tight security ring was thrown round the court. Haynes, dressed in prison uniform with "escaper's" yellow patches, was surrounded in the dock by seven prison officers. He had told detectives that he could escape again.

The detectives believe that Sandringham was on his list of possible targets. Among his possessions was a guide book to the royal home. They also believe that he stole to order, leaving behind valuable items that he was not asked to steal.

Mr Patrick O'Brien, for the prosecution, said that Haynes first escaped from his jailers at Norwich Crown Court, in

December 1980, minutes before he was due to appear on seven burglary charges. He had cut four iron bars on the cell window.

A month later he burgled Chipchase Castle in Northumberland, stealing antiques and works of art worth £47,698.

When Haynes was caught nine months later in London by armed police, a Beretta 9mm pistol and ammunition stolen from Chipchase was found in a flat.

Also in the flat, where he had been living as Nigel Lamb, were a face mask, a wig and other disguise implements. Two CS gas canisters were found at the spot where Haynes gave himself up after a rooftop chase.

Four months later he was free again, when he used a gas spray on guards taking him back to Norwich Crown Court to face trial for escaping and the burglary of Chipchase Castle. Eleven months later he burgled Waddesdon Manor.

Before Haynes was finally trapped he escaped from detectives once again, after being arrested for a drugs offence in Cornwall. He had been living among hippies, travelling in a caravan, and had been running a chain of "burial chemists" shops to obtain drugs.



Lord Wilson flanked by Mr Hans Schwarz (right), the artist, Lord Gormley (first left), and Mr Sidney Weighell at the National Portrait Gallery unveiling (Photograph: John Voos).

Gallery unveiling of ex-union leaders

By Alan Hamilton

A triumvirate of retired trade union leaders enjoyed varying degrees of success in beating industrial action and had weather to attend the unveiling of their likenesses at the National Portrait Gallery in London yesterday.

Mr Sidney Weighell, late of the National Union of Railwaymen, took the insider's precaution of travelling from Yorkshire a day early. Lord Gormley, the retired mineworkers' president who is recovering from a stroke, came by car but used a side entrance to avoid a small knot of striking miners waiting to speak to him.

Mr Tom Jackson, who forsook leadership of the postmen in favour of anti-quarian bookselling, was confined in Leeds by snow and an absence of trains.

Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, whose government suffered at

the hands of the triumvirate rather less than did that of Mr Edward Heath, unveiled the painting while dexterously avoiding any reference to the difficulty in the coalfields which was the root cause of yesterday's train strike. He recalled that his great-grandfather had been an engine driver, and that his governmental career had begun in the old Department of Mines.

"This is an intimate, friendly, almost family occasion within the trade union movement", Lord Wilson said, describing the portrait's subjects as "three historic leaders

with Britain's industrial hierarchy. It was my privilege to know them to good times and worrying times".

The three were chosen by the National Gallery trustees because, although regarded as right-wingers in their time, all led major national strikes during the 1970s. "They couldn't have picked three better men", Mr Weighell said.

Lord Gormley, depicted in pin-striped suit, mirror-polished shoes, and raincoat thrown casually over his shoulders, declared it to be a perfect likeness.

Helicopter used by the Queen had fake parts

By Robin Yonog

Private industry announced yesterday the starting date for the latest stage in its attack on the worldwide epidemic of counterfeit and trade-mark counterfeiting, which is alleged to have included counterfeit parts in a helicopter used by the Queen.

Such counterfeiting is estimated to account for up to 6 per cent of world trade, worth more than £50 billion a year.

The International Chamber of Commerce, which has 7,000 members in more than 100 countries, announced that its London-based Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau (CIB) will start work on February 4.

Mr Eric Ellen, former Chief Constable of the Port of London Authority, who is director of the CIB, said that investigations were already under way into counterfeit perfumes and cosmetics coming from the Middle East, watches being exported from the Far East, and fraudulent pharmaceuticals.

Mr Ellen said that an American congressional report had disclosed that 600 Nato helicopters had been fitted with counterfeit rotor parts; heart pacemakers and aircraft wing bolts had been counterfeited; and a crop of coffee in Kenya had been devastated by the use of fraudulent fertilizer.

He added that, as well as the Queen's helicopter, that belonging to the President of Egypt had been found to contain counterfeit parts. In Britain, the authorities had seized fraudulent and defective brake fittings for aircraft and cars.

Marriage wait

Young people in the Irish Republic will not be allowed to marry until they are 18, under legislation being drafted by the Dublin government. Under existing law, girls can marry at 14, and boys at 16.

Tour bookings down by a third

By Michael Horsnell

Bookings for summer holidays are about 35 per cent down on last year because of price rises, the slide in the pound and the prospect of surcharges, Thomson Holidays, Britain's biggest holiday company, disclosed yesterday.

But Mr John Macneill, managing director, said that comparisons were misleading because of the record number of holidays sold last year.

He also said that last-minute holidays would be harder to book this year and the number

of holidays on offer would be generally reduced.

"It is our view that cutbacks will be more widespread than for summer 1984 and that there could be shortages for clients leaving it late to book."

Cutbacks could also lead to more consolidation by holiday companies when several operators share one aircraft rather than the two they had expected. That could lead to travel arrangements and sometimes hotels being changed. Cosmos Holidays said that

bookings were about 35 per cent down, although it advised clients to book early to secure their first choice holiday.

Horizon said that although bookings were down there had been an improvement during the past few days.

All the companies said there was little room for price reductions in hotel or air costs.

About 750,000 holidays have been removed from the market this year because of the crash of several smaller operators last autumn.

Twins born after infusions



Mrs Rosemary Wood with twins of six weeks, Richard (left) and Katie.

A woman who became one of the first in Britain to have a baby with the aid of a hormone infuser attached to her arm, has now had twins by the same method, our Science Correspondent writes.

Mrs Rosemary Wood, aged 25, of Farnham, Surrey, and her husband, John, were told by doctors three years ago that they were unable to have children. However, she then joined patients at the Middlesex Hospital, London, who were given the device, a pulsatile infusion system. As a result, she had a baby boy, Michael, now aged two.

She has now had twins, Richard and Katie. The device, about the size of a standard music cassette, is strapped to the arm for about four or five months. It contains a tiny syringe, replaced weekly, which injects the hormone LHRH into the blood every 90 minutes.

Pickfords Travel to sell 'bucket shop' air tickets

By Michael Bailey

"Bucket shop" air tickets will be on sale under a scheme evolved by Pickfords Travel, part of the employee-owned National Freight Consortium.

With 230 branches, Pickfords is one of Britain's biggest travel agents. Its new Farefinder scheme starting this week, will give travellers instant access through video screens in each branch to cut-price air fares for destinations throughout the world without the insecurity of some bucket shops.

Mr Neil Thompson, product development manager at Pickfords, said yesterday: "These

Transport Editor

are published IATA (International Air Transport Association) fares for groups which we are selling individually. There is no illegality."

He denied charges that Pickfords fares would be higher than those offered by bucket shops because they had to go through middlemen.

	Farefinder Cheap APEX return	return
London to Sydney (high season)	£230	£290
To Johannesburg	£215	£1,095
To Los Angeles	£265	£420
To Frankfurt	£85	£104

Action against tax evaders stepped up

Tax evaders were yesterday given a warning that the campaign against them is being intensified. The Inland Revenue has been so successful in tracking down the missing millions that it has decided to devote more resources to the task of looking at small companies and job "moonlighters".

News of the moves came in a report from the Commons public accounts committee, which looked at the investigations branches of the Inland Revenue.

Stonehenge plan would close main road

By John Young

A plan to restore and improve the setting of Stonehenge, protecting it from the worst intrusions of late 20th-century mass tourism, was put forward yesterday by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

Although the report of a study group and purporting to be a consultative document, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of the commission, which last year assumed ownership of the site from the Department of the Environment, made clear which proposals he and his colleagues favoured.

The most controversial part of the scheme envisages the

closure of about a mile of the A344 road which passes close to the north side of the ancient monument.

Local people are strongly opposed to the idea and yesterday Mrs Amy Hall, a Wiltshire county councillor, said she was ready to sit down to the road as a symbolic protest.

Mrs Hall said she favoured the holding of a "replica" in Amesbury as the centre of a Walt Disney-style theme park, creating scores of jobs and taking the pressure off the real stones.

But Lord Montagu said he

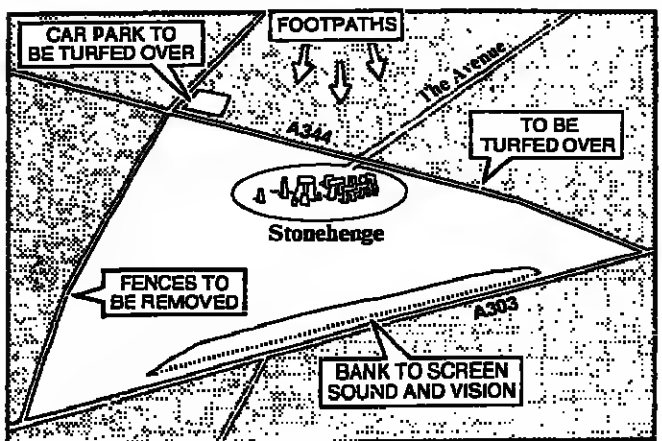
was not in favour of a replica. The commission's aim was to improve the quality of a visit to Stonehenge and to provide visitors with an exciting experience.

The commission wanted to open up the surrounding landscape, with a network of footpaths to give maximum access to sites and monuments in the neighbourhood.

Apart from provision for the disabled, access to Stonehenge would be on foot, a walk of about three quarters of a mile from a new visitors' centre and car park at Larkhill, which would offer beautiful views and would approach the ancient avenue which one led people to the site.

As well as the closure of the A344, the commission also favours the building of a bank along the north side of the A303 to reduce noise and to screen vehicles.

Lord Montagu said that implementation of the scheme would take at least three years, allowing for the time needed for agreement with the Ministry of Defence to release land, planning permission for new buildings and a possible public inquiry into the proposed road closure. The cost was put at £3 million at today's prices.



HOTEL HEATING COSTS CAN BE LESS RITZY BY 52%

There's no need to move your establishment to the Mediterranean to enjoy the warmth.

A lot of hotel managements have discovered how to take the chill off their heating bills and give their guests a warm welcome at the same time.

With gas. Two recent developments have made all the difference.

First: since 1983 supplies of gas have become more available.

Hotels that have been using other fuels have found they could now turn to gas.

Second: the latest gas equipment is getting more fuel-efficient.

That's what's happened at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool.

They changed over to modern gas boilers for space heating. They used new direct-fired gas heating in a Banqueting Suite.

Result: banquet indeed. Saving of 52% on fuel costs.

At the Ariel Hotel in Harmondsworth they were already enjoying the benefits of gas.

But they enjoyed it even more when they

replaced their old gas boilers for the latest ones and found a 40% fuel saving.

Many hotels, up and down the country, from cosy little places in the country, to gigantic palaces in our main cities are taking advantage of the new developments in gas.

Don't you think your hotel ought to be getting the benefits too?

Contact Commercial Sales at your British Gas region, and we'll analyse both your present and future fuel requirements. We'll advise you on the right equipment for your needs. You'll probably be pleasantly surprised by the very welcome savings you'll make.

Gas
GAS IS WONDERFUL

East-West arms dialogue: The pace quickens

Belgian mission to explain cruise delay

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, is to visit NATO capitals over the next few weeks to ask permission for his country to postpone deployment of the 48 cruise missiles it is meant to receive.

Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, tried to make it clear in Brussels yesterday that he had still not definitely made up his mind about deployment and that he was still seeking advice and guidance from within the alliance.

He held a press conference on his return from Washington, where he had been under strong pressure from President Reagan to keep the promise to deploy the missiles in Belgium from mid-March.

But faced with the fact that the latest opinion polls show half the Belgian population is opposed to deployment, Mr Martens yesterday refused again to give a clear answer. He is known to want to postpone cruise deployment at least until after the general election which is not scheduled until December. His Liberal coalition partners in the Government want deployment now. Both to honour the NATO promise and to leave as long a period as possible to calm public opinion before the election.

Mr Tindemans, who is himself a deployment hawk, has been asked to try to win time in agreement with other allies. In his tour of capitals he will be arguing as much conviction as possible that the present Government stands a better chance of being returned if deployment has not taken place - and that if the Opposition is returned then deployment will be cancelled.

Mr Martens yesterday promised no more than that the timetable for deployment would be decided by the end of March "after full consultation and agreement with our NATO allies".

This means that if Mr Tindemans cannot report that postponement will be acceptable to the alliance, the Belgian Government will be forced

either to go ahead as promised with deployment or to risk the Liberals forcing an early election by pulling out of the coalition. In those circumstances, deployment could not fail to be the central issue in the campaign - something Mr Martens is keen to avoid.

● **ROME:** Mr Nikolai Linkov, the Soviet Ambassador, has received a courteous rebuff from the Italian Government to his proposal that the installation of cruise missiles be held up while new disarmament talks are prepared (Peter Nichols writes).

The Ambassador called late on Wednesday evening on Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, officially to inform him of the Soviet reading of the outcome of the talks in Geneva between Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Signor Craxi issued a statement after the talks expressing his hope that the negotiations would be reopened soon "without prejudice and in an open and constructive spirit".

The Soviet move came two days after a similar diplomatic report on the Geneva meeting had been made to the Belgian Government.

● **BUDAPEST:** Mr Kaare Willoch, the Norwegian Prime Minister, arrived in Hungary yesterday on the last visit of a NATO leader to a Warsaw Pact state since an American-Soviet agreement to resume arms talks, the Hungarian MTI news agency said. The visit was arranged well before the US-Soviet agreement in Geneva, but it will provide the first opportunity for European allies of each superpower to discuss the forthcoming arms negotiations (Reuter reports).

Mr Willoch was having a first round of talks with Mr Gyorgy Lazar, the Hungarian Prime Minister, yesterday and will meet Mr János Kádár, the Communist Party leader today, before returning to Norway tomorrow evening.



Hart's two-hour Kremlin sounding

Senator Gary Hart, standing in front of St Basil's Cathedral in Moscow's Red Square, after a two-hour "friendly" meeting yesterday with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr Gromyko told Mr Hart that the timing and location of new arms negotiations had not yet been agreed between the two superpowers (Reuter reports).

Mr Hart said Mr Gromyko had restated Moscow's objections to President Reagan's "Star Wars" programme for space defence but had not repeated an earlier hint that new talks could be torpedoed by continuing US missile deployments.

"He did say on a more positive note that there is a dialogue going on about the timing and the

location of these discussions but that there had been no concrete results."

The Democratic senator, who arrived on Wednesday for talks with Soviet officials, said Mr Gromyko told him both sides wanted to come to the talks "not to discuss generalities but to offer concrete proposals for concrete problems".

Mr Gromyko had restated Soviet views on the arms talks in virtually the same language that he had used in a 110-minute television broadcast on Sunday.

He concentrated on Moscow's argument that Washington must drop its Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) space defence programme if progress was to be achieved over intermediate and long-range nuclear weapons.

The Popieluszko murder trial

Driver's escape from police car fit for John Buchan hero

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The driver of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest murdered three months ago, yesterday gave a graphic account of his desperate escape from the clutches of three secret policemen and gave some hint of the panic that gripped the authorities when they became aware of the attack.

Mr Waldemar Chrostowski, a tough-looking ex-commando in his 40s, was testifying in the murder trial in Torun.

Speaking calmly and concisely, he managed to fend off repeated attempts by the state prosecutors - Mr Zygmund Kilacki and Mr Leszek Pietruski - to trip him up and undermine his credibility as a witness.

His criminal record raised - he received suspended jail terms for assaulting policemen more than a decade ago - though yesterday he said the policemen had done the assaulting - and both prosecution and defence tried to suggest he had delayed reporting the attack for shadowy motives.

"I was in a state of shock," Mr Chrostowski said in explaining why he went to a church rather than a police station after throwing himself from the getaway car. "It was after all a man dressed as a policeman who had stopped us in the first place," he said.

It was not clear why the prosecutor should have tried to croak Mr Chrostowski's status as a witness. Mr Edward Wende a lawyer, for the Popieluszko family, made the point forcefully in court: "It's very strange to me that the prosecutor wants to undermine the testimony of his own principal witness."

After Mr Chrostowski managed to report the kidnapping to the police on the night of October 19, many bizarre events occurred suggesting that the Jaruzelski leadership immediately assessed the abduction of the priest as a disguised attempt to overthrow the Government.

As soon as the driver was taken to hospital plain clothes policemen came to photograph him, which overrode the normal procedure - and he was then transferred to the special Interior Ministry Hospital in Torun, where he was kept under close armed guard. Only after three days was he allowed to make contact with the outside world.

The Government dispatched a unit of highly-trained anti-terrorist commandos to escort the driver back to Warsaw. These commandos, still in uniform, were seen at the Torun courtroom.

Mr Chrostowski's escape must rank, for drama and mystery, in the class of John Buchan's hero. On the moonlit night of the kidnapping, a Polish Fiat overtook the priest's car and flagged it down.

A man, now identified as ex-Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski, dressed in traffic policeman's uniform, asked for the driver's documents and snatched his car keys. He was then taken from the priest's Volkswagen Golf to the Fiat, on the pretext of a breathalyser test and was handcuffed.

"Why did you let your right hand be manacled?" the prosecutor asked yesterday.

Mr Chrostowski replied: "I was still not suspicious enough to resist."

Behind him another of the kidnappers pulled open the driver's mouth, stuffed in a gag and declared: "Here's a little something for you so that you don't cry too much on your last trip."

This kidnapper was later identified as ex-Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, who like Chmielewski and ex-Lieutenant Leszek Pietruski, faces the possibility of capital punishment if found guilty.

As the getaway car, driven by Pekala, sped down the Torun road the priest's driver bent forward, gripped the door-handle with his little finger, threw his body against the door and rolled out onto the road.

He was convinced that the priest had been knocked unconscious and stuffed into the boot. While he was being held in the front seat, a gun in his ribs, he had heard "a dull thud, as if a bag of flour had been hit by a club".

Yesterday, the prosecutor asked with incredulity: "Have you ever jumped out of cars before?" The driver replied that he had not, but that 20 years before he had received commando training.

Meanwhile, there are indications that the Interior Ministry, which overrode the secret police, is undergoing one of its biggest shake-ups since the late 1950s. The Interior Minister, General Czeslaw Kiszczak, has held meetings with two former senior party figures with extensive security experience, Mr Stanislaw Kania and Mr Mieczyslaw Moczar.

Acting on their advice and other draft proposals, he has come up with a way of restructuring the secret police to guarantee its loyalty to the political aims of the Jaruzelski Government.

Pessimism pervades European spirit

Brussels - The average citizen of Europe is rather gloomy these days and in Britain the chances are that he or she will be gloomier than most (Ian Murray writes).

This is shown up by the latest "Eurobarometer", the six-monthly opinion poll conducted by the European Commission to trace trends in the Community. Belgians seem the most miserable, with the French and Irish not far behind. Britons are also growing more pessimistic.

As far as fear of a third world war is concerned, the average European seems less convinced that one is "probable". In April 1980, 34 per cent believed war was not far off. Today, the figure is 13 per cent, with Britain at 14 per cent.

Palme's pledge on Wallenberg

Stockholm (Reuter) - Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, marked the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg yesterday with a pledge that Sweden would continue its efforts to find out what happened to him.

In Washington, President Reagan yesterday renewed US demands for a full explanation of Wallenberg's disappearance. He said in a statement that "the world owes a tremendous and eternal debt to this great man, and the Soviet Union owes the world a full and complete accounting of his fate".

Extradition plea to Britain

Washington (Reuter) - The US is seeking to extradite from London and Geneva two businessmen charged with swindling investors out of \$3.6 million (£3.1 million) in a real estate fraud scheme, the Justice Department said.

Mr Alan Blair, a US citizen, was arrested in London and Mr Wilfried van Cautenberghe, a Belgian, was held in Geneva.

Popular issue

Peking (Reuter) - Thousands queued this week to buy Shanghai's first share issue, the China News Service said. All 60,000 of the 50 yuan (£16) shares reserved for individuals were snapped up on the first day of issue.

Keeper killed

Diepholz, West Germany (Reuter) - A Bengal tiger killed its teenage keeper with a single bite through the neck and escaped from its cage here. A helicopter marksman shot it dead.

Workers' coup

La Paz (AP) - Bolivian workers demanding back-pay seized 29 factories here and held the executives hostage. The Board of Industry threatened to close all factories if the take-overs continue.

Crime purge

Jakarta (Reuter) - Six suspected criminals have been found dead in the central Java city of Jogjakarta in the past month, apparent victims of an official crackdown on crime, an Indonesian magazine said.

Priest gets life

Delhi (AP) - A priest of the Syrian Orthodox Church in southern India was sentenced to hard labour for life after being convicted of murdering a teenage girl during a rape attempt at his monastery.

Rich harvest

Guelph, Ontario (AFP) - A farm was sold here for Can\$250,000 (£170,000) by a Canadian millionaire to raise funds for Ethiopian famine victims.

Britons held

Eleven Britons were arrested in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on January 4 for allegedly drinking alcohol. Under Saudi law, they could face public flogging if found guilty.

Dali fire verdict

Madrid - The fire in which Salvador Dali was badly burnt at his castle home near Girona last August was accidental, an official report said.

Korea talks off

Tokyo (Reuter) - North Korea called off yesterday's trade talks with the South and said future discussions would depend on Seoul's attitude.

Aids toll

Bern (Reuter) - Aids has killed 26 people in Switzerland and the number of reported cases has doubled in a year.

Pole position

Bono (Reuter) - Syria's headed the list of diplomatic traffic offenders in West Germany's capital in 1984 and Polish diplomats were the most widely cited drivers, closely followed by the Papal Nuncio's chauffeur.

The Cyprus summit

Goodwill yields to wrangling

From Zoriana Pysarivsky, New York

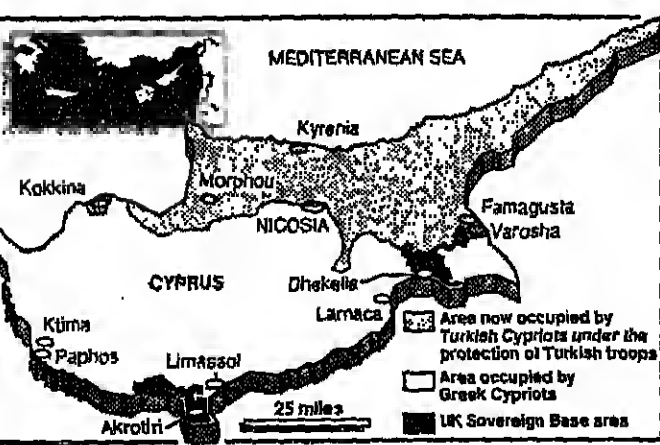
A summit of great expectations for a solution to the Cyprus problem took place at the United Nations yesterday as President Kyprianou of Cyprus and Mr Rauf Denktaş, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, met for the first time since 1979.

The two sides entered face-to-face discussions in the presence of Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, under tremendous international pressure to produce a framework for a comprehensive settlement, with a timetable for implementing the phases leading to a federated republic of Cyprus.

But even as the meeting began with an outward show of goodwill and friendliness, disagreement about the very nature of the summit marred the atmosphere. The two sides continued to argue over whether the documentation provided by the Secretary-General at the end of three rounds of proximity talks was subject to negotiation.

Mr Denktaş has stated categorically that he would walk out of the summit if the Greek Cypriot side persisted in viewing what he called a draft agreement as open to renegotiation. Mr Andreas Christophides, the spokesman for the Cypriot Government, denied there was a draft, such an agreement would be subject to all aspects of the Cyprus problem were still under consideration.

The proposals put forward by the Secretary-General provide for a skeletal framework and the establishment of working committees to implement general agreement in detail. The Greek Cypriots believe that the summit should conclude with very specific terms of reference and guidelines for the committees, which would deal with such questions as Turkish withdrawal, international guarantees, drawing up a constitution and a map delineating the boundaries of two autonomous regions. Thus they see the summit as something more than a signing ceremony.



The men Their tasks

President Spyros Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denktaş, both British-educated lawyers, have been sparring partners for well over 20 years.

● Mr Denktaş, aged 60, brought up in a devout Muslim Turkish Cypriot family, studied law at Lincoln's Inn because his people needed lawyers to defend their rights. Deeply patriotic, he soon became absorbed in Turkish Cypriot politics, founded the Turkish resistance movement in Cyprus and after independence became the tough and undisputed leader of his community, in succession to Vice-President Fazil Kucuk.

● Mr Kyprianou, aged 52, became involved in Greek Cypriot politics while studying at Gray's Inn where he, too, became a barrister. As the representative of the Greek Cypriot ethnoarchy in London and Washington, he was President Makarios's unofficial representative and when Cyprus became independent in 1960 he was appointed Foreign Minister.

President Kyprianou, who was re-elected in 1983 with Communist support, had a major political rival in Mr Glafcos Clerides, head of the right-wing opposition Democratic Rally. But for the present negotiations he has secured the support of all the Greek Cypriot parties.

Between them the two leaders have to settle the future of the Mediterranean's third largest island and its population of 618,000 of whom 78 per cent are Greek-Cypriots and 18 per cent Turkish Cypriots. The remainder are minorities such as Armenians and Maronites.

Cyprus came under British administration in 1878. It was formally annexed to Britain at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 and became a Crown Colony in 1925.

In 1955 an armed campaign by the Greek Cypriot organization EOKA for union with Greece (Enosis) plunged the island into a state of emergency which ended in an agreement in 1959 between Britain, Greece, Turkey and the two communities that the island would become an independent republic, except for two Sovereign Base Areas still retained by Britain.

The constitution broke down in bloodshed in December 1963, after which many of the Turkish Cypriots took refuge in fortified enclaves. In 1974 a coup d'état by mainland Greek officers against President Makarios led to the Turkish invasion of the northern part of the island. In 1983 Mr Denktaş formally declared the occupied area an independent state, but was condemned by the UN and recognised only by Turkey.

Unifil awaits green light to move south

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

The Israeli forces in Lebanon will begin dismantling and removing their infrastructure from the Sidon area next week in preparation for the withdrawal deadline of February 18, an authoritative military source said yesterday.

Installations and equipment whose repatriation was not economically feasible have been offered for sale to the United Nations for use by Unifil forces but explicitly not for the Lebanese Army.

Mr Brian Urquhart, the special United Nations envoy, told Israeli leaders yesterday he was awaiting a green light from the Beirut Government to ask the Security Council to approve a new mandate for the UN force in Lebanon allowing it to advance from its present deployment south of the Litani river into the region the Israelis are to evacuate.

Mr Urquhart conferred with Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister.

The source said the Israelis were trying to come to some

arrangement whereby Unifil or the Lebanese Army will enter the area three or four days before the Israelis depart and deploy side by side.

"We don't want a situation that occurred in September 1983, in the Shouf, when we left at midnight and by 4 am the whole area was in flames".

Israel, he added, will leave an area of about 200 square miles, with a population of between 250,000 and 400,000. It will hold until the second phase some 900 square miles, with about 330,000 Shia Muslims, 70,000 Christians, up to 30,000 Druse and 40,000 Palestinians. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, on behalf of Mr David Kimche, its director-general, denied that he had said in Geneva that Israel would offer haven to Lebanese who had been co-operative, as reported by The Times.

The statement said Mr Kimche had not been interviewed by The Times in Geneva but gave a Press conference at which he said he hoped no harm would befall those who had co-operated. Leading article, page 11

UN's check on PoWs

Baghdad (Reuter) - A United Nations team left for Tehran yesterday after investigating the treatment of Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq, the official Iraqi news agency said.

The three-man mission, which arrived in Baghdad last week, will spend six days in Iraq looking into conditions for Iraqi prisoners there before reporting to the UN Secretary-General.

General Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar.

The team was formed in November after an incident in an Iranian camp in which several Iraqi prisoners died.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mr Hussein Pourkazem Ardebili said in Tehran on Tuesday that Iran would do everything to help the mission in its work.

Egyptians and Greeks iron out old problems

From Marin Modlann, Athens

Greece and Egypt, at least at Government level, continue not to see eye to eye politically, but their bilateral relations seem to have improved during President Mubarak's brief state visit to Athens which ended yesterday.

A Greek Government spokesman announced that problems that had bogged down bilateral relations for two decades had now been resolved. These concerned the rights and insurance benefits of Greeks and Egyptians working in each others' country, as well as the liquidation of Egyptian property in northern Greece.

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, who had talks and lunch with the Egyptian President yesterday, even spoke of "opening a new chapter" in the relations between the two countries.

He also thanked Mr Mubarak for giving him "a new perspective" on the problems of the Middle East.

Gale force winds at Athens airport last night compelled the Egyptian President to postpone his flight to Cairo until today, posing an unexpected security problem.

Jamaica clears up riot debris

Kingston (AP, NYT)

Using armoured personnel carriers and heavy road equipment, security forces parolled the streets of the Jamaican capital yesterday, removing roadblocks set up by demonstrators during two days of protest over fuel price rises.

Police said four people had been killed and 18 injured. Most main streets in the capital have now been cleared of barricades. Jamprass, the Government news agency, reported that Kingston was returning to normal with some schools reopened and public transport expected to be restored.

Many people drove to work for the first morning in three days, risking flat tyres from broken bottles, rocks and debris remaining in the streets.

The demonstrations resulted from Monday's announcement of a 20 per cent increase in fuel prices. The latest in a three-year series of austerity measures instituted by the Prime Minister, Mr Edward Seaga.

Hotels and airlines reported that schedules were returning to normal, and denied reports that tourists were fleeing the country. An estimated 12,000 tourists arrived on Tuesday and Wednesday. Only 11 trips had been cancelled, government



Mr Seaga: Country facing incidents of sabotage

sources said, although they conceded that an extra flight had been laid on for visitors unable to leave the island earlier in the week.

Mr Seaga told reporters that several incidents of sabotage made it necessary to end what he had tolerated earlier as peaceful demonstrations. He said sugar cane fields outside Kingston had been set ablaze and security forces had uncovered plans for blowing up a key bridge and highway overpass.

Opponents of the Government have called on Mr Seaga to resign and hold new elections. The former Prime Minister,

Mr Michael Manley, leader of the socialist People's National party, in a statement virtually acknowledging his party's participation in the demonstrations, said the protesters had "sent a message to the Government loudly and clearly that they will no longer sit by and allow an arrogant and corrupt Government to inflict unending economic miseries".

● **LONDON:** Joe Moss, a member of the pop group Culture Club, talked yesterday of his "frustrating ordeal" when he became caught up in the troubles in Jamaica.

He said he was forced to run the gauntlet past machete-wielding villagers after they stopped his taxi. He and Boy George, the Culture Club singer, were forced to call off a trip to visit Bob Marley's widow, Rita, in Kingston because all roads were blocked.

The Culture Club drummer had gone to Jamaica for a week's holiday to join Boy George and the pop star Marilyn.

Speaking on his return at Heathrow, Moss said he ran into a roadblock on the northside of the island. "There was a group of villagers wielding machetes who wouldn't let us through. I had to get out of the car and move through them."

Black America rides the obstacles

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Black America is riding a wave of hope and encouragement despite President Reagan's "deplorable policies", according to a respected Urban League spokesman.

Pressure group. It notes in its annual report that Mr Reagan captured only one black vote out of every nine last November.

Despite the message of optimism, the group's "State of America" report concludes that the Reagan Administration's record on civil rights would divide the US into a "prosperous majority and an impoverished minority".

Mr John Jacob, president of the league, says: "On balance, I would suggest that the strongest message coming out of black America in 1984 was that it became increasingly aware of its own strengths and increasingly willing to act indepen-

dently to achieve what it considers its own best interests."

Mr Jacob says that despite the burgeoning US economy, black unemployment is about 16 per cent. He says evidence of hope for blacks included the elevation of Mr William French, a black Congressman from Philadelphia, to head the House budget committee.

The report notes: "For the first time, a black political leader will be at the centre of the negotiations over the budget."

The Rev Jesse Jackson's respectable run for presidency was another sign. There had been a "revival of the interracial, nonpartisan movement for racial justice, as evidenced by black and white cooperation to help famine victims in Ethiopia and to oppose apartheid in South Africa."

The report says 53 per cent of black families "remain intact, married couples". Most of the other families are headed by women. It cites Mr Jackson's presidential campaign as the most encouraging event in 1984. It had created a "flurry of political involvement" at the local level, particularly among young black voters.

The anti-apartheid demonstrations against South Africa had "brought religious and lay leaders together with civil rights organizations and conservative congressmen".

Among steps recommended in the report are presidential support for a civil rights Bill now before Congress, reappraisal of US policy towards South Africa, a cooling of political statements that blacks say are polarizing the races, and a moratorium on budget cuts in programmes that help the poor.

Kohl proposes new treaty to make sure EEC reforms work

As a curtain-raiser to today's meeting in Bonn between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the German leader spoke to
MICHAEL BINYON, Bonn Correspondent of The Times.

Question: What is the present state of Anglo-German relations, and how would you characterize the British as European partners? Do you think that relations with Great Britain can ever be as close as those with France?

Answer: Tomorrow the two heads of government of our two countries will meet for the sixteenth time for summit consultations. Among the important questions on the agenda is the further development of the European Community. Europe needs Great Britain and - allow me to say this - Britain also needs Europe. This is not an emotional statement, but reflects the balance of our common interests. In our view it will therefore not be possible to move Europe forward without Great Britain playing a substantial political role.

Anglo-German relations are marked by a mature and solid friendship. Britain together with the United States is one of our most important and reliable Alliance partners in ensuring freedom and peace. The contributions which the British armed forces make to the stability of the forward defence of Western Europe are of particular importance. The British Army of the Rhine merits my special tribute. This is also true of the British forces in Berlin. Without a harmonious Anglo-German relationship Europe would be a tangle.

Security cooperation between the Federal Republic and Great Britain, marked by constant intensification and improvement and is of great value in our security policies.

Of course the framework of our cooperation with Great Britain is different from that

with France. The aim however remains the same: to strengthen the security of Free Europe. As I have said that 1985 should be a year for Europe. Could you outline what concrete steps you would like the Community to take to achieve greater integration?

The European Community is of vital importance to all of us. It has proved itself in critical phases in the past. We must however admit that we have often had fears for its cohesion, indeed for its continued existence. When the Community is enlarged to 12 with the addition of Spain and Portugal, this will be an added test of the Community's ability to act and take decisions. We must therefore strive for progress in the field of its institutions.

The European Council in Fontainebleau set up a committee which among other things is to put forward proposals for institutional reform. But there is little sense in just striving for agreement on declarations of intent to which no one feels himself seriously bound later on. If we do not want just paper reforms, then the necessary agreements must be put on a solid, binding basis. For this reason we should seriously consider negotiating a new treaty which does justice to the necessary institutional and political development of the Community.

The Community also needs to make up lost ground many other fields which are dealt with by the Treaty of Rome but which need completing and deepening. I am thinking for example of the necessity to create a genuine internal market. We must also encourage the convergence of our national economies. We should also

make greater use of the opportunities for industrial cooperation than in the past.

We must seek ways and means of increasing the role of Europe in foreign and security policy. It is certainly useful if European heads of state and government are able to agree on joint resolutions on topical foreign policy questions. Our joint position in multilateral bodies has meanwhile become established practice.

There is new movement in East-West relations. It is worth paying attention to common European interests, especially with regard to the Soviet Union, which will not cease to strive to divide us from each other and at the same time to play off the Americans and the Europeans against each other. These are questions of vital importance. We must finally be clear in our minds whether we want a Europe with its own political profile or a Europe which only has an economic identity.

What role do you see the Federal Republic playing in East-West relations?

The Federal Republic of Germany is in the middle of Europe and for historical reasons bears a heavy responsibility for peace and stability in East-West relations. The same is true for the GDR (German Democratic Republic). The German people live on the dividing line between East and West. It is therefore inevitably interested in a favourable East-West climate. Peace must emanate from German soil.

We fully support the new arms control negotiations between the two world powers that have now been set in motion in Geneva. We are quite confident that it will be possible in the course of these difficult and certainly protracted negotiations to create a world with fewer weapons.

We believe that with these negotiations between the USA and the Soviet Union new impetus will be given for the multilateral arms control negotiations on MBFR (Mutual



Balanced Force Reductions) in Vienna, on chemical weapons in Geneva and on security and confidence-building measures and disarmament in Stockholm, and that they will usher in a new phase of dialogue, understanding and cooperation between East and West.

The European allies on both sides can, through dialogue each with the other can have an influence on the political framework for the negotiations between the big powers. Europe's interests must be

defended and asserted. The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which in 1985 will be 10 years old, points to concrete opportunities which it is important to use to the full.

The Federal Republic of Germany has sought cooperation with all Warsaw Pact states even in periods of difficulty in East-West relations. These relations help stability and peace. They were not and are not intended to exclude anyone.

The talks and contacts which we continue to have with the Warsaw Pact states make clear the interest of our eastern neighbours in the continuation of useful cooperation with us. We will continue without deflection along the path of understanding with the East. The revanchism campaign does not impress us, because it attempts to paint a picture of the Federal Republic that does not correspond to reality.

A big discussion has already begun about May 8. How do you think this anniversary should most appropriately be commemorated, and what is at the heart of the notion of German sensitivity?

It is the day on which the Fascist dictatorship came to an end. This day marks a moment at which it was evident to the Germans what immeasurable suffering had been caused in their name. I am thinking above all of the atrocities committed against the Jewish people and all our neighbours. We want to remember and we want to make our peace, from nation to nation, from person to person.

About 65 per cent of Germans living today do not remember May 8, 1945, either because they were too young, or they were not born. For this reason alone the events must be recalled to mind, because nothing of their kind must be allowed to happen again.

A new democratic state has grown up for us. In the construction of this state our allied friends greatly assisted us. For this we owe them our thanks. But I can only agree with Foreign Secretary Howe when he says that real and lasting stability in Europe will be hard to achieve as long as the German nation is divided against its will.

What is your attitude to the recent decision by the British Government to celebrate May 8 after all?

I am certain that our friends who 40 years ago were our opponents in battle know that this day is a very special day for

the Germans. It is of course not a day to celebrate - we are speaking of commemoration, and we will hold an hour of remembrance in the Bundestag. In the evening not the state but the Catholic and Protestant churches in Germany will conduct an ecumenical service in Cologne Cathedral.

We want to commemorate this day as the liberation from National Socialism. Speaking as party chairman, we are also celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the CDU in the summer.

I am going to speak on April 21, the day of the liberation of the Bergen Belsen concentration camp by British troops, at the

It will not be possible to move Europe forwards without Great Britain playing a substantial political role.

invitation of the Central Jewish Council. We will therefore remember the victims of National Socialism, the men and women in the concentration camps, prisons and places of execution. We will remember the millions who fell as soldiers, the many millions also of refugees and expelled persons who suffered in this frightful time and those who were killed in their own homes by bombs - men, women and children. I experienced that myself in my home town from when I was five to 12. The important thing for us is that on this day we do not only look back but also forwards.

I think one should treat this suffering and these terrible times not with great speeches but with reflection and self-analysis and also in prayer. I also believe it important to say to young people that this is how it was, it must never happen again. But we have done

something for the future, the enemies of yesterday have become the friends of today, and Britain stands out in the front row among them.

What is your opinion of Britain's refusal to join the so-called "30 per cent club" of countries pledging to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions?

We must discuss the situation with each other as it is completely different in various countries. You hardly have any dying forests or none at all. We have areas - most British people at least have heard of the Black Forest where we face a complete catastrophe - and we must find a sensible middle line between ecology and economy. But the death of the woods is of course a special thing for us. What the sea represents for the British, the woods do for the Germans. For this reason we have to find solutions which satisfy both of us.

In the field of domestic politics, what do you see as the outlook for the coalition in view of the electoral losses of the FDP?

I am optimistic that the forthcoming elections, for the coalition of the centre, of the CDU/CSU and FDP, can show important success.

The rise in unemployment has been halted, a change in direction is noticeable in the labour market; protection of the environment is making progress, and we will introduce low pollution cars equipped with catalytic converters. The economy is growing further. For the first time in a decade in 1984 the increase in GNP was above the inflation rate. The consolidation of the budget is making palpable progress. The social security network has been reinforced. To this we must add even in a difficult phase in world affairs contacts with the GDR were not broken off - last year alone about 40,000 of our compatriots were able to leave the GDR.

I am sure that our citizens appreciate these results of steadfast policies.

Gandhi to clamp down on defections

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

The Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, yesterday took the first steps towards redeeming some of its election pledges, in particular the promise to clean up political corruption.

President Zail Singh, in a speech to a joint meeting of the Houses of Parliament - the equivalent of the Queen's speech in the British Parliament - announced that the Government would bring forward an anti-defection bill to prevent floor-crossing by MPs or state legislature members.

Although details were not out of the bill presumably would impel a defector to submit to a by-election under his new colours, the aim being to make it fruitless for someone trying to purchase his loyalty by cash or preferment. It will end perambulation of politicians in and out of political parties, which a few years ago caused a good deal of popular disillusion and which enabled the central government of Mr Gandhi's mother to topple the state

governments of Jammu and Kashmir and of Andhra Pradesh last year.

The President also promised new measures to help preserve and clean up the environment. He spoke of a new forest policy and new development boards for waste lands to give a fresh impetus to afforestation "as a people's movement".

MPs applauded by rapping their desks when the President spoke of establishing a central authority to stop pollution of the River Ganges.

"The Ganga is no ordinary river," he said. "With it are bound long memories of our past, our songs and poetry and our search for truth. A cleaner Ganga is thus a matter of the deepest satisfaction for our people."

The President arrived at the Parliament building in an open landau sheltered under a red and gold umbrella, a symbol of temporal authority. He was accompanied by a president's escort of Lancers - direct descendants of the Bengal Lancers of old. In the domed central hall he

was welcomed with a fanfare of trumpets. Wearing a white turban and charcoal-grey achkan, and a high-necked frock coat, with a red rose in a button hole, he was led to a balcony dais before a canopied chair. The Prime Minister, who followed him in procession, appeared a trifle lost and had to be directed to his seat in the front row of the stalls.

President Zail Singh drew attention to a number of political and economic successes by the Government, in particular the strengthening of India's foreign exchange reserves. He also welcomed the resumed Geneva arms talks and announced that the heads of government of six non-aligned nations - Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania and India - would meet in Delhi in the next few days to consider what further action the Non-aligned Movement could take towards nuclear peace.

The President's speech, in deliberate Hindi which was repeated in English by Mr

Ramaswami Venkataraman, the Vice-President, was frequently applauded. The heaviest came when he declared that the Government will accord high priority to the social, economic and cultural development of women.

He said an important step in this direction will be the provision of free secondary education for girls. At present if girls want the equivalent of 'O' or 'A' levels they have to go to fee-paying schools.

●CHANDIGARH: Police yesterday held five people for questioning over Wednesday's attempt to assassinate Jathedar Giani Kirpal Singh, head priest of the highest Sikh religious order in Punjab state, the Press Trust of India said (Reuters reports).

Authoritative sources in this state capital said at least two of those held for questioning were Sikhs aged 23 and 34. A motorcycle and two pistols believed to have been used in the attack had also been seized by security forces, they said.

Japan sweet poisoners strike again

From David Watts Tokyo

Japan's sweet poisoners are in action again after a new year holiday break.

In the first poison incident of the year a packet of sweets laced with sodium cyanide was found outside the Osaka office of Japan's largest-circulation morning newspaper, *Yomiuri Shimbun*.

A note left with the sweets said the package was a "New Year gift" to the Morinaga Confectionery Company which has been a principle target of the extortionist group signing itself "The Man with Twenty-one Faces".

The poisoned sweets were to one of the special 1,000 yen packets that the firm has been selling direct to the public to prevent the poisoners tampering with their products on supermarket shelves.

10 letters to *Yomiuri Shimbun* and other newspapers, the gang said that they would stop bullying food companies if they can collect 1.3 billion yen from them.

Earlier this month the gang threatened another big sweet and cake manufacturer, the *Fujiya Company*. Since the weekend the police have been deployed at supermarkets and elsewhere to try to discourage the gang, and have issued a sketch of one of the men they want to interview. In the latest letter the gang commented: "None of us is as ugly as this man. We are all handsome men."

Mitterrand expected to face protests in New Caledonia

From Diana Geddes Paris

Hostile demonstrations are expected to greet President Mitterrand when he arrives in the troubled French overseas territory of New Caledonia in the South Pacific tomorrow for a visit of less than 24 hours. Mitterrand was due to leave Paris last night.

Soon after the President's surprise announcement of his visit on television on Wednesday night, anonymous tracts began circulating in Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia, calling on the *Caldoches*, the white settlers of French origin, to protest against Mitterrand's apparent support for the plan proposed by M. Edgard Pisani, France's High Commissioner, for the islands to name independence linked with continued close association with France.

"It revolts me that he should come here. We can expect nothing from him," a *Caldoches* shopkeeper said. "If he is coming with preconceived ideas, it is not worth his making the journey," a white teacher added. A young immigrant from the French South Pacific island of Wallis commented: "He is coming to accelerate the process of independence which we do not want."

However, the leaders of the *Rassemblement pour la Calédonie* dans la République, the party representing a majority of the *Caldoches*, were more positive about the visit. "It shows the interest the President has for the Caledonian prob-



M. Pisani Accused by Kanak leader.

lem," M. Dick Ukeiwe, President of the newly-elected semi-autonomous Government of the islands and himself a Kanak but fiercely anti-independence, said.

"I dare to hope that he will be able to understand the majority of the Caledonians, their inspirations, and their desire to remain French. Those who plan to take part in the demonstration are not our supporters because hostile demonstrations are not the best way to reach a solution."

M. Roger Laroque, the white Mayor of Noumea, who is normally considered a hardliner among the anti-independenceists, said he thought Mitterrand's visit "an excellent thing". The Kanak separatists were more reserved in their reaction. "This visit will change nothing. We are already on the path to independence," a spokesman for the National Socialist Kanak Liberation Front (FLNKS) said, adding: "At least the President

will be able to see with his own eyes the reality of the colonialist exploitation."

M. Jean-Marie Tjibaou, leader of the FLNKS, so far had declined to make any comment either on the visit, or on his talks yesterday with M. Pisani, whom M. Tjibaou had earlier accused of having "blood on his hands" after what he believed to be the deliberate murder by the police of two Kanak separatist leaders on Friday.

M. Ukeiwe also had talks with M. Pisani yesterday. It was the first time that either M. Tjibaou or M. Ukeiwe had met M. Pisani since the publication of M. Pisani's plans for the islands on January 7 or the violent events of the past weekend.

The police organized a press visit to the scene of the shooting of the two Kanak separatists, Eloi Machoro and Marcel Nonnaro, yesterday, in an attempt to convince journalists of their version of the events, which differs substantially from that of the Kanak separatists. The police maintain that the deaths were accidental.

Having been given orders only to "neutralize" the separatists, police sharpshooters would normally have aimed for the legs, the police said. Machoro's legs were shielded by a bank, while Nonnaro's were bidden behind a car. So they aimed instead at the shoulder. But Machoro moved and the bullet hit his chest, while in Nonnaro's case the bullet was accidentally deflected off a bone in his shoulder, wounding him fatally.

Tape clue to Taiwan critic's death

Taipei (Reuters, AFP) - Taiwanese investigators are trying to find a tape recording which may contain information about the murder of a Taiwan dissident in California last year, official sources said.

The tape could throw light on the killing on October 15 of Mr Henry Liu, a Chinese-American writer and a critic of the Taiwan government.

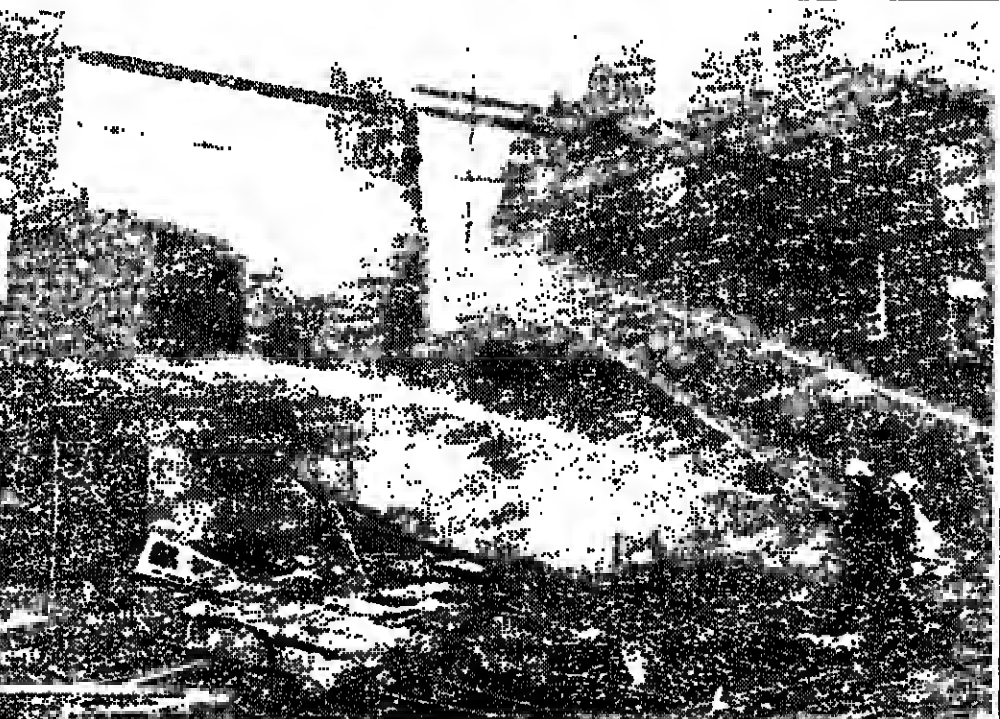
Taiwan has admitted that its intelligence agents were involved in the killing, sparking the biggest political scandal here in a decade.

The sources said the tape was recorded by Mr Chen Chi-li, a leading Taiwanese underworld figure named by US authorities as one of Mr Liu's killers.

They said the tape was believed to contain details of Mr Chen's activities before and after the murder. Taiwanese intelligence officials have been arrested here in connection with the affair.

The sources said Colonel Chen Fu-men, a deputy department head in the Military Intelligence Bureau and one of those arrested, told investigators that at least two more senior officials knew of the plot.

Three officers of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation are to visit Taiwan



Second Brussels gas blast

Firemen hosing down the wreckage of four houses ripped apart by a series of gas explosions in Brussels early yesterday. Two women and a man were killed and nine injured in the explosions, the second gas blast in Brussels in two days caused by freezing weather (Reuters reports).

Police said one body pulled from the wreckage was too badly burnt to be identified, although neighbours said it was that of an elderly woman. There was little hope of finding the two missing people alive.

About 30 people were evacuated from houses in the area, because further gas leaks threatened to cause more explosions.

Eyewitnesses said the first explosion at 6.16 am destroyed one house and set off another blast seconds later that blew the top two storeys off an adjoining building. A third explosion half an hour later destroyed a house on the other side of the road.

In St Etienne, France, a gas pipeline exploded in icy weather, sending flames 600ft into the air, but no one was injured.

A court motion to dismiss the charges, which carry a maximum death penalty, was filed by the state prosecutor at a suburban court on orders of the Justice Minister, Mr Estelito Mendoza.

Two days ago President Marcos ordered a review of the four-year-old case so that the 62-year-old former senator could return and "pursue his political aspirations to the fullest".

Mr Salonga, president of one faction of the divided Liberal Party, is one of at least 11 opposition contenders being considered by the opposition

Manila clearing way for dissident's return

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The Philippines Government moved yesterday to dismiss subversion charges against Mr Jovito Salonga, a possible opposition presidential candidate who plans to return home on Monday from three years self exile in the United States.

A court motion to dismiss the charges, which carry a maximum death penalty, was filed by the state prosecutor at a suburban court on orders of the Justice Minister, Mr Estelito Mendoza.

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Mr Salonga, president of one faction of the divided Liberal Party, is one of at least 11 opposition contenders being considered by the opposition

Independent TV given go-ahead in France

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The situation was threatening to get out of hand.

By announcing his decision to "free" television, Mitterrand has succeeded in pre-empting what threatened to be an Opposition campaign to demand the lifting of the Government's "stranglehold" over television.

The Opposition parties conveniently ignored the fact that when they were in power they had jealously guarded the state's monopoly over both radio and television.

Independent radio was legalized by the Socialist Government in 1982, and there are now some 1,000 local private stations operating in France. However, Mitterrand said on Wednesday that it would be physically impossible, even if it were desirable (which he clearly believed it was not), for similar numbers of independent television channels to broadcast simultaneously.

He said he believed there might be room for around 80 local and regional independent channels, but gave no figure for the possible number of national independent channels.

Robert Hersant, right wing owner of *Le Figaro* and France's most powerful press magnate, whose empire the Government unsuccessfully tried to dismantle last year through its Press Monopolies Bill, announced earlier this week an ambitious plan to set up a private television company, targeted on European as well as a national French audience.

Chinese intruders 'wiped out'

Bangkok (AFP, AP, Reuters) - Vietnam said yesterday its forces had "wiped out" hundreds of Chinese soldiers allegedly intruding across the Sino-Vietnamese border in the past week.

Radio Hanoi said Chinese troops had fired tens of thousands of shells from a hilltop they occupied in the northernmost Vietnamese province causing several civilian casualties and considerable material damages.

In Peking the New China news agency reported fresh border incidents, saying that Vietnamese troops fired on Chinese positions on Wednesday and that Chinese forces

killed or wounded "a number" of Vietnamese "invaders" in the Laos area.

In Bangkok yesterday, Thailand criticized the United States for not providing aid to the Cambodian resistance coalition that has been battered in recent weeks by a powerful Vietnamese offensive along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Foreign ministry officials said Thailand - regarded as a front-line pro-western state facing a hostile Indochina - was unhappy with Washington's reluctance as well as its failure to set forth "clear-cut policy on South-East Asian affairs."

Fighting has dropped off in the border area, between the

Vietnamese and guerrillas, but appears to have intensified elsewhere. Thai military sources said the Khmer Rouge had stepped up its attacks in Battambang.

About 500 Khmer Rouge troops of the 474th Division burnt bridges and attacked Vietnamese bases in the areas of Sisophon and Mongkol Borei, along the highway.

Meanwhile, Laotian national radio monitored in Bangkok said that the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were meeting in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday to discuss Southeast Asian affairs and cooperation between their countries.

Resignation over Austrian clash violence blocked

Vienna - The Lower Austrian Government yesterday refused to accept the resignation of Dr Emil Schuller, the senior civil servant responsible for policing the controversial Ludwig power station site (Richard Bassett writes).

Dr Schuller resigned earlier this week, accusing the Government of not supporting the police during violent clashes with demonstrators on December 19. Dr Siegfried Ludwig, Lower Austrian Governor, said the resignation would not be accepted until a review of police responsibility in the Austrian provinces has been carried out.

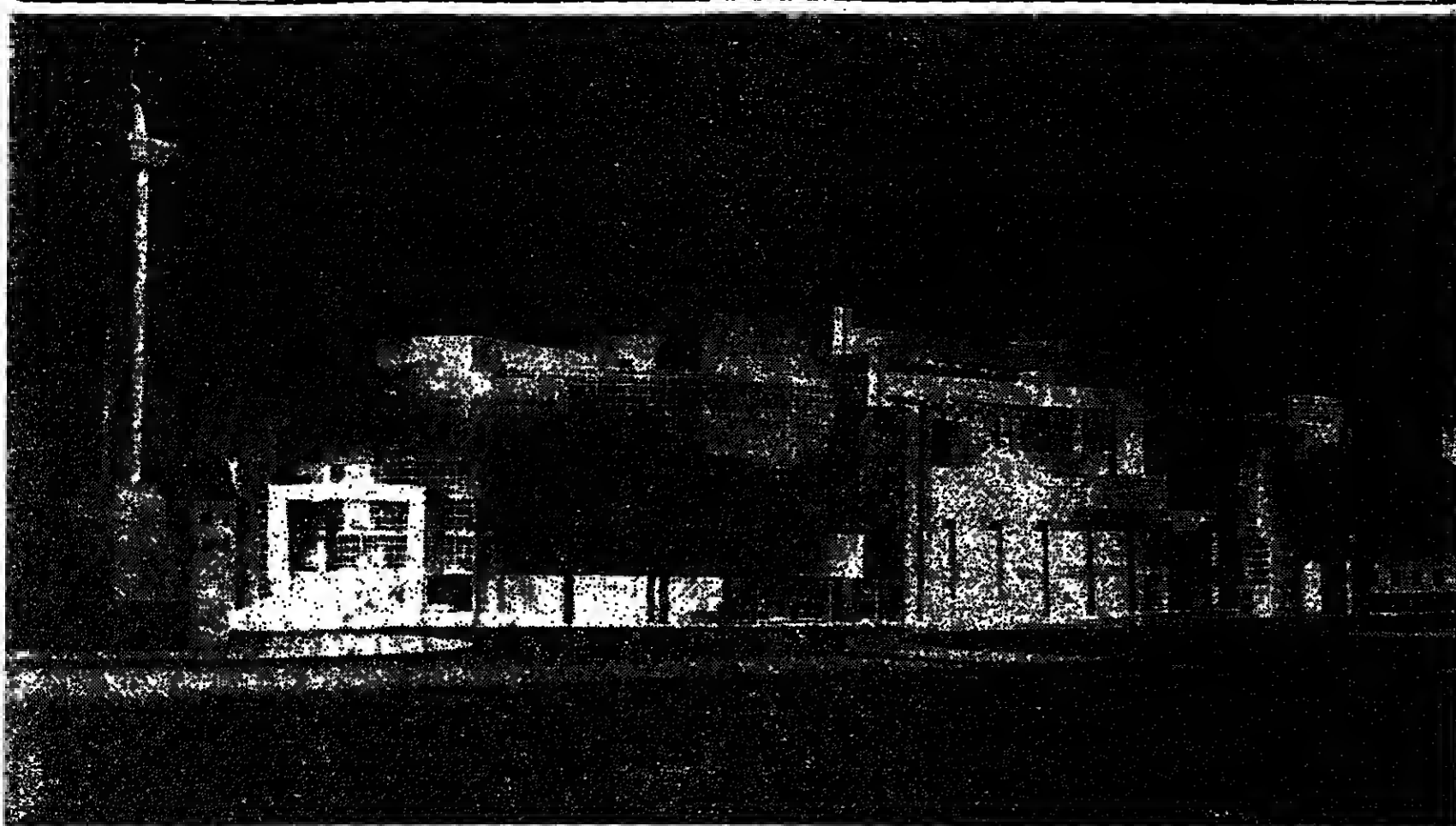
Sudan to hang man, 76

Khartoum (Reuters) - The 76-year-old leader of the banned Republican Brothers Party in Sudan, Mahmoud Muhammad Taha, and four of his followers are due to be hanged today for opposing Islamic law, the Sudan News Agency reported.

It said President Jaafar Nimeiri yesterday approved the death sentences imposed by a criminal court last week. The five were convicted of distributing pamphlets against implementing Islamic law and of anti-Government incitement.

السنة ١٤٠٥

SPECTRUM



A controversial new opera house (model above) is being built in Paris by President Mitterrand's socialist government to celebrate the bicentenary of the French Revolution. Jane Withers and Anthony Fawcett report

The people's opera

In the Place de la Bastille, Paris, a ragged crowd of locals has gathered at the entrance to the old railway station to watch the dramatic spectacle of its dismemberment. Twenty feet up in the air the roof dangles from the jaws of a crane like a sheet of flimsy card.

Demolition has just begun to clear the way for the grand new Opera de la Bastille, a £200 million project initiated by President Mitterrand to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution in 1989.

In France architecture is serious politics. The time-honoured tradition of political leaders creating architectural monuments as tangible memorials to their ambitions is unabated. In recent years the pace has quickened and the fabric of Paris has become the arena for an intense power struggle with politicians wielding grand architectural schemes as if they are playing monopoly.

After the wild, popular success of Pompidou's Centre Culturel everyone discovered the value of building vast pleasure domes. Now the leading protagonists are Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris and leader of the opposition, and of course, President Mitterrand.

In spring last year Chirac inaugurated his £100 million Palais Omnisports de Bercy, a vast stadium for sports and music, and it was he who finally won the notorious "affaire des Halles", erecting his flash amusement arcade-style shopping centre on the site of the old market.

Mitterrand's plans leave no doubt that the imprint of socialism on Paris will be formidable. A central platform of his campaign was to restore Paris's claim to be the capital of culture and to "democratize" that culture so it is accessible to everyone.

The government's formula is to raise a series of lavish cultural edifices, some socialist-initiated and some inherited. These include a museum of the 19th century in the Gare d'Orsay, Tête Défense, an extension to the Louvre, La Villette - a vast new open air cultural centre that will be the largest new park in Paris since Haussmann mapped out the Bois de Boulogne - and of course, the Opera de la Bastille, commonly called the *Opéra Populaire*.

All was to culminate in a World Fair that Mitterrand planned for 1989 in a fanfare of socialist glory. But since Chirac spiked the World Fair with accusations of gross financial extravagance it is left to the Opera to mark the bicentenary for the socialists. The pedigree is formidable. The Eiffel Tower, no less, marked the century.

The Opera's symbolic site is the Socialist's major coup. On the night of Mitterrand's election 3,000 people

gathered to celebrate at the Bastille.

It might seem incongruous that an opera house should be chosen to symbolize socialism. For all the way back to the time of the Bastille opera has been as much a symbol of the *ancien régime* as the fortress itself. But at the heart of Mitterrand's commitment is the belief that if opera is made accessible the masses will flock to it.

The term *Opéra Populaire*, however, refers only to the audience. There will be little concession to popular taste. Mitterrand's culture is serious stuff. Opera, indeed, is undergoing something of a renewal. In Paris last winter there was a choice of five film versions of Carmen.

In keeping with the grandeur of his gesture Mitterrand launched an open international competition to see who would design his Opera. It was won by 37-year-old Canadian architect Carlos Ott who has gathered together a team of 80 French and Canadian experts to realize the project and has set up office down the road from the site.

Born in Uruguay, Ott began his architectural studies in Montevideo and completed them on a scholarship to the U.S. In 1974 he was invited to join a Canadian team working on the new Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

"I soon realized that many of the decisions were not made by the architect at his little drafting table but by the developers. I thought it essential to understand that side of building, the client's side. I joined a Canadian

company which was developing downtown Dallas, Texas.

"It became frustrating to direct architects without doing my own architecture so, in the evenings and at weekends, in airport lounges and hotels, I worked on the competition on my own. I didn't think I had a chance but I am what you call a workaholic."

"I decided I preferred designing to controlling architects and sites, so I quit and joined a big architectural firm, the second largest in Canada. One month later I heard I was one of the three finalists chosen by President Mitterrand."

Ott's short career emphasises his pragmatic approach to architecture. His experience on both sides of the fence proved invaluable for interpreting Mitterrand's ambitions.

The brief called for a complex programme to be slotted on to an awkward site divided by roads into three irregular chunks. Ott's design was widely voted the most "buildable" and least destructive to the neighbourhood.

Even Chirac agreed if there must be an *Opéra Populaire* Ott's design was the best - a rare accord between city and state - and gave the green light to clear the site.

Place de la Bastille is an irregular star shape on the frontier between the aristocratic Marais district and the working eastern quarter characterized by centuries of spontaneous urban growth. Haussmann neatened up the west side to focus on the Colonne de

Juillet but the rest escaped his treatment.

Some of the competition entries tried to redress the balance, regularizing the site of the opera in line with Haussmann's development. Others resorted to historical pastiche to blend opera with site. Ott, by contrast, kept to the existing road plan and designed an assertively-contemporary building to integrate with the existing urban fabric.

"I don't want to shift the focus of the Place to the Opera but to respect its odd configuration. Unlike the old Operas my building cannot have a monumental facade. It almost has to hide behind the existing buildings."

It relates in much more subtle ways than colour or materials, arches or mansard roofs. In the Piazza Navona in Rome there are Renaissance and Baroque facades and rococo and neo-classical facades but the whole piazza has a uniformity. It is more difficult to do it - this way but much more interesting."

In Ott's design a vast glass wall patterned by the zigzag design of the internal stairway shields a cluster of volumes articulating the components of the opera in the manner of the Bauhaus doctrine that form follows function.

In view of the myriad possibilities for flaunting historical symbolism dreamed up by other contestants (Rocco S. K. Yim, one of the finalists, proposed, for example, a neon guillotine and three columns carrying the motto of the French Revolution in all the languages of the world) Ott's restraint is admirable. Three spare arches focussed on the Colonne de Juillet are about the only gratuitous elements.

"The building has to encourage people to come to the opera. I can't determine the price of a ticket but I can make opera accessible to more people by creating an open, inviting building that people can pass through when they go from a café to the metro and watch a rehearsal on a monitor or scenery being built."

"La Scala, Bayreuth or Covent Garden have already given us the psychological ambience of watching an opera. I believe an architect today must do a new hall, one that brings a new dimension. This Opera will be like a musical instrument with which new composers and singers can innovate as well as allowing the classical repertoire to be performed in the way it was conceived."

"I have to take the challenge of the future, to build an Opera for the next century."

OPERA WITH EVERYTHING

The opera will have a main auditorium seating 2,700, a modular theatre seating 1,500 and a full-size rehearsal hall. The flexible rotation of performances is essential to the economics of the Opera.

It is hoped that ticket prices at the new opera will be half that at the Palais Garnier. This will be achieved by the frequency of performances rather than the quantity of seats offered. There will be one performance every day of the year in each auditorium and a choice of three different productions every week.

The main auditorium is designed for the classical repertoire and has traditional acoustics. The modular theatre is much more flexible and will house experimental work and operas that require a small audience. It will have both traditional acoustics and electro-acoustics and a choice of three different wall surfaces with different levels of absorption.

The Opera Populaire will be open all day with restaurants, cafés and videotheques for watching films of operas. On the adjacent site of the Gare d'Orsay will be an open air auditorium.



Architect Carlos Ott

Unravelling the old mysteries of heaven and hell in a day

Anyone spending the whole of tomorrow at the National Cottesloe Theatre can justly claim to have completed a marathon mystery tour. For it is here, in an extraordinarily revamped auditorium, resembling a cross between a mercer's hall and the market square of a medieval town, that a trilogy of Bible-based dramas will be performed before, or rather among, a substantially ignorant audience.

The day is a culmination of eight years' work by director Bill Bryden, his Cottesloe Company, and the Newcastle poet Tooy Harrison. Since 1977 they have been working on a largely neglected and anonymous body of dramatic work which we call the Mysteries.

Tomorrow is the first occasion on which the three resulting productions, *The Nativity*, *The Passion* and *Doomsday*, can be seen on the trot. Seven intense hours of the sacred and the secular.

Before examining the history of the company and the evolution of the epic, it would be as well to solve the first pressing mystery of the original plays. The word itself derives from the Latin *mysterium*, meaning a craft or trade. And that is precisely what these dramas are - trade plays staged peripatetically on wagons by the various guilds of the town. In the Middle Ages, prosperity was the cue for a town to acquire a cycle of its own, much as in later centuries, it might have acquired a Lord Mayor or, indeed a soccer team.

Each of the playlets was put on by a particular trade or company, after which it was dubbed the fishers' or glovers' or cutlers' pageant.

Four of the cycles survive - York, Chester, Coventry and Wakefield (or Towneley) - and it was not until 1953 that they emerged from a 500-year dark age of neglect.

The rationale of those early plays is important, for it is largely the same as that which informs Bryden's approach today. "We've tried to create, in a modern world, the sort of basis on which those original performances occurred," he says.

"In those days there may well have been a figure who approximated to a producer, the man who went round and got these guilds together. That, for present purposes, is me. They took their plays around the town on wagons, within our town, the Cottesloe, the town goes around the wagons."

Hell may no longer be the burning reality it was for our forefathers and this world no longer the physical threshold from which you ascend or descend when your allocation of days expires. To that extent the force of the cautionary rams is diminished.

None the less, as Bryden says, "these plays are not really about what your religion is. They're about the faith of common people, and their days of celebration. They make sense today, at a time when the church is virtually nowhere - because they help us to remember our faith and our struggle for that faith, whether it is in our family, our home town, our union."

During rehearsals, with the three tiers of the Cottesloe empty, and the floor space dotted with little groups of actors in their appointed "stations", it is hard to see how the place can transform itself into a market square with the mere addition of an audience, none of whom knows the cues.

Up above, things are even more bizarre. An assortment of domestic utensils hangs by threads from the rafters: cheese graters, colanders, garden dustbins, each one containing a tiny flickering light and together



Top, Karl Johnson as Jesus and, above, designer William Dudley has a word with John Canfield, assistant director

taking on the look of a pierced metalwork decor. On the front of the balconies are yet more emblems of craft and labour, all overhung at the top of the theatre by the great emblazony of trade union banners.

Designer William Dudley explains: "Our idea has been to follow that pragmatic quality which would have been exercised in the original performances - to style this story of the Bible around what's available. It's a myth that there was no machinery being used then. Now, as then, we're using these things as tools which after a while become invisible, in the sense of being accepted."

Perhaps the most significant change in the company since its inception is to be found in the role of Tooy Harrison. In 1977 he was doing, in his words, "a humble plumbing job" on the York Mysteries. He was and remains, a poet much opposed to difficulty to modern writing and the job of re-fitting a popular, but now obscure, dictionary for the modern ear was just right for this Leeds-born linguist and classicist.

But now, after all the immersion, the plumber has become an architect and *Doomsday* is essentially the original work of a thoroughly modern poet to contentment with the idiom of his source material. If the medieval guilds had professional writers, like the so-called Wakefield Master and York Realist, then Harrison is the nearest thing one could have to a latterday counterpart.

Harrison, like Bryden and the musical director John Tams, is an unashamed vulgarian, a man who clearly remembers his own childhood anger at not being allowed to read poetry in his own Yorkshire accent, deepened inferior to Received Southern Pronunciation.

You need speed no more than five minutes at the Cottesloe, listening to the short northern vowels of God and his lad and to the crowd-clearing delivery of the alliterations, to sense that Harrison is taking spectacular revenge on his teachers.

Alan Franks

"Don't blame him," said the Head of Intelligence. "Wouldn't trust a Russkie dentist."

"Not quite what I meant, sir. What I'm thinking is this..."

Chapter Five.

"Have a good trip to Russia?" said the dentist.

Savage nodded. It was all he could do in his spreadeagled position. He noticed that there was a novel on the ceiling now, nailed into position at pages 34 and 35. He read the page, but could make nothing of them. Perhaps it was an Iris Murdoch.

"Hello, what do you suppose this is?" said the dentist, withdrawing a small black dot.

"Microfilm?" suggested Savage.

"Unfortunately not. It looks organic to me. Have you by any chance been eating caviar?"

Oh lord, Savage suddenly remembered the pot of caviar he had consumed on the last night. And he had never brushed his teeth in case he dislodged the vital dot.

"There are hundreds of black dots in your mouth, Mr Savage," said the dentist grimly. "This could take all..."

Suddenly the room was full of secret servicemen, searching Savage, searching the dentist, searching the bureau receptionist, several times. They found nothing. Jones gnashed his teeth and retreated.

Chapter Six.

"Nothing," said the Head of Intelligence. "Nothing at all!"

"A few irregularities in his NHS payments," said Jones. "Nothing otherwise."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 547)

ACROSS	1 Snub (6)	15 A la mode (7)	18 Lie partly across (9)
2 Tweak (6)	6 Four out (6)	16 Scots exclamation (5)	20 Rubbish (5)
3 Lyric poem (3)	9 Decrepit car (6)	17 Postponed (7)	21 Facilities (5)
4 Swampy land (6)	10 Transfer (4)		23 Answer (5)
5 Hoodlum (8)	11 Bully (6)		
6 Steamy pudding (6)			
7 Beautifully appreciator (8)			
8 Red Dutch cheese (4)			
9 First water (6)			
10 Before (3)			
11 Emphasis (6)			
12 Rely (6)			
DOWN	1 Avoid (5)	13 Ornament (7)	16 Food searcher (7)
2 Ornament (7)	3 Food searcher (7)	17 Devil (5)	18 Main body (5)
4 Savings (4,3)	5 Savings (4,3)	19 Savings (4,3)	20 Savings (4,3)
5 Insulane (3)	17 Postponed (7)		

SOLUTION TO No 546

ACROSS: 8 Commensurable 9 NPA 10 Abatement 11 Year 13 Trestle 16 Hatless 19 Eager 22 Redevelop 24 Run 25 Boulevard

DOWN: 1 Scanty 2 Impala 3 Detainee 4 Askant 5 Trot 6 Abject 7 Fettle 12 Era 14 Exemplar 15 Lee 16 Herby 17 Tedium 18 Sustain 20 Garish 21 Render 23 Vile

Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS. STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

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- Down to a tee: Your guide to golfing holidays worldwide
- Values: What the modern chef needs in the kitchen
- Family Money: Enter this year's Times Unit Trust Competition
- Boxing: Preview of Colin Jones's world welterweight challenge

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Quiz of the Year results; Family Life at the ice rink; review of the month's video cassettes; critical guide to the week's arts; In the Garden on seed catalogues; Bridge, Chess and the Prize Crossword.



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One of Our Teeth is Missing

A Motor in Whitehall

A complete new spy thriller!

Chapter One

"Open wider," said the dentist.

Peter Savage opened his mouth as far as it would go.

"Wider," said the dentist.

Savage tried to go further, but it hurt.

"Ah han't ho hany hide," he said. The dentist smiled.

"That's all right, old boy. I'm just trying to hurt you. Better to get the pain over with now, wouldn't you say? Hello, what's this?"

Using what looked like a pair of eyebrow tweezers, the dentist withdrew a tiny black object from Savage's teeth.

"An eyebrow?" suggested Savage.

"No," said the dentist. "It's a microdot. A tiny piece of film."

The dentist winked at Savage.

Savage winked back at the dentist.

Chapter Two

"What I can't understand," said the Head of Intelligence, "is how Savage is getting the secrets back into this country. We know he's bringing them back, and passing them on. But how? And who is he working for, Jones?"

"I thought he was working for us, sir. Unless he's a double agent."

"Of course he's a blasted double agent! We're all double agents. What I want to know is: how is he getting it in under our noses? Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to make a phone call to Moscow."

moreover... Miles Kingston

The dotty life of a spy

Chapter Three

"Come for another check-up, Mr Savage? That's the spirit!"

said the dentist. "And how was your trip to Yugoslavia?"

"Fine. But I've got this little twinge in upper left four."

"Upper left four? Say no more," said the dentist, twinkling down at him. As he lay there, Savage gazed up at the bare ceiling and wished, not for the first time, that dentists could put something amusing up there to distract the sufferers.

A novel, perhaps, on an electronic screen.

"Got it," said the dentist, holding up the microdot.

"You've also got a little decay in that tooth. Shall I deal with it?"

"OK," said Savage. "But I wish you'd provide something to read up there..."

Chapter Four

"I've been running Savage through the computer, sir," said Jones, "and I've found something strange. When he comes back from the Iron Curtain, he always goes to the dentist."

"Don't blame him," said the Head of Intelligence. "Wouldn't trust a Russkie dentist."

"Not quite what I meant, sir. What I'm thinking is this..."

Chapter Five.

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FRIDAY PAGE

Nancy the Washington star

As America's most popular President is sworn in this weekend, Christopher Thomas looks at the changing image of his not-so-loved leading lady

Ronald Reagan said you would be surprised how useful it is to be an actor when you are a politician. He is by trade a political entertainer, and a good one. You can almost see his wand. He lends credibility to the silly, excruciating excesses of the White House theatre. Nancy Reagan, alas, is no such natural.

The First Lady learned from the boos that her first two years were a flop. She was a reasonably successful screen actress but she fluffed it in her opening season on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Was she not high-handed with staff? A nagging perfectionist? Too thin? Too adoringly, sickeningly sycophantic with Ronnie in public? Too distant? The audience thought so.

She has changed the image somewhat with the help of professional public relations people. Now she is better at the lines, the tricks, the similes, the showbiz nonsense that infects American politics.

And when she was Hollywood actress Nancy Davis she was no seductress. She was shunted, protesting, into "character roles", that euphemism for playing older people or worse still - respectable and ordinary people.

The couple's closeness has encouraged spiteful talk

She was young when Hollywood decided she was a bit mumsy. It was said by the experts in such esoteric matters that she was unsexy, her legs were not good enough, that Nancy in a bathing suit and even a short skirt was not sufficiently alluring.

She made the last of her 11 films in 1957 - *Hellcats of the Navy* it was called. Ronald Reagan also starred in it, a small fry actor compared with those Nancy had earlier played alongside - such people as James Mason and Van Heflin in *East Side, West Side* Glenn Ford in *The Doctor and the Girl*, Ray Milland in *Night into Morning*, and Fredric March in *It's a Big Country*.

She recalls: "I mostly played a series of roles in which I was either a young wife with children or about to have a child. I was padded to look pregnant more times than I can recall."

The image of the steady woman, the suburbanite, the

semi-pregnant lady was taking her nowhere professionally. Nancy Davis left MGM in 1952, a year after she had turned 30, the year she became Nancy Reagan.

Everybody who knows them says Nancy and Ronald are an extremely close couple, a fact that inexplicably encourages all manner of spiteful anecdotes about them, as if it is assumed that the most powerful man in the world should not succumb to such sentiment for such a thoroughly ordinary person.

Who in Washington has not heard that the President is often to be found snuggled on the couch upstairs watching a TV "soap" with Nancy in the mid-week afternoons? That particular story may even be true but it is told not because it is cute. It is told more often than not with a genuine sense of malevolence towards their intimacy.

Nancy Reagan's early coverage in the Press as a political wife was unfriendly. She did seem to regard her role as wife of the Governor of California as something akin to her role as a relatively well known film actress - a role of pretence. Indeed that is what it is - Nancy Reagan, however, let it show. A published account of her unquestioning obedience to an impertinent television crew when she was the governor's wife in Sacramento went thus: "Fine," the newsmen said. "Just fine. Now I'll ask a question, and if you could just be nipping a bud as you answer it."

"Nipping a bud," Nancy Reagan repeated, taking her place in front of the rhododendron bush.

"Let's have a dry run," the cameraman said. The newsmen looked at him. "In other words, by a dry run, you mean you want her to fake nipping the bud?"

"Fake the nip, yeah," the cameraman said. "Fake the nip."

It was a small incident, but it demonstrated the disrespect of the media towards her. She encountered a lot of giggling publicity.

But the publicity has changed. Hollywood decided she was a bit homely and America has finally come round to agreeing. She came to represent a good image of a governor's wife, a lady of fulsome charitable deeds and genuine concern for people. It was let out that President Reagan's pet diminutive name for her is "Mommy". Apparently, it really is. Nancy Reagan, of course, is no glamorous Jacqueline Kennedy. Neither is she a horsey Eleanor Roosevelt. She does not quite fit the role of



The First Lady: Stepping out with the President in tow (above left); posing unsuccessfully for the movie moguls (above); and with Ronald Reagan, the actor, in the film *A Turkey for the President*

that upper class institution, of "the lady's charity", perhaps because her charitable choice is the needy world of drug addiction. She works hard at it, far harder than necessary to assure the public that she is obeying the post-Jacqueline Kennedy unwritten rule that the First Lady must do charitable deeds. As a president needs a wife, a president's wife needs a cause.

Lady Bird Johnson was big on gardens, parks, the countryside and flowers. Pat Nixon favoured something called "volunteerism", but by all accounts did not volunteer with undue gusto. Betty Ford took to handicapped children. Rosalyn Carter chose mental health.

That Hollywood decided Nancy Reagan was a maternal figure seemed to hurt her. She wrote in her 1980 autobiography, *Nancy*: "I can remember going into the make-up department for my first day of shooting and how exciting it was for me to be sitting next to June Allyson or Elizabeth Taylor, both of whom later became good friends." "Sidney Guiliardoff was the famous hair stylist and Bill Tuttle was head of make-up. As I was being made up, the first lady Bill came in to introduce himself and said, 'Well I guess that's all right, but we'll have to do something about her eyes - they are too big for pictures.' He was joking but I was so nervous I thought he was serious, so I went around the rest of the day with my eyes half closed."

The story goes that Nancy Davis approached Ronald Reagan in 1950 to help repudiate rumours that she had communist inclinations. It is probably apocryphal - even if she was not one of the glamour chicks she had good connections in the upper reaches of the Hollywood film establishment. It was unlikely that she needed Ronald Reagan's help.

She sang and danced on stage at an annual society dinner

Nancy Davis's godmother was Alla Nazimova, who made her name in New York for her Ibsen heroines - the first Stanislavsky-trained actress to play a lead role on Broadway. Nazimova held seances in her Hollywood palace (which later became the Garden of Allah Hotel). Rudolph Valentino was terribly impressed by them - he loved to attend. And so, New York and Hollywood are in Nancy's blood.

So, in a different way, is the nation's capital: she grew up outside Washington, and went to school in the city, which would be the dreariest place in the world but for its gripping political theatre. In their vastly different ways, New York, Hollywood and Washington are the greatest entertainment centres in the world. They have been Nancy's life.



For an actress, though never an especially acclaimed one, Nancy Reagan has an unusually severe and often unchanging expression - one of the reasons for her earlier unpopularity as the First Lady. Press photographers say they know every one of her expressions, and neither of them is photogenic.

Not long after Nancy Reagan arrived in the White House she rated 50 on a 0 to 100 scale of a

popularity poll. And so the public relations people got working and came up with a gimmick that seems to have marked a turning point. She sang and danced on stage as Second Hand Rose at one of Washington's annual society dinners. My goodness, could the puppet dance without strings?..

Born in 1921 in Manhattan - her name was Anne Frances Robbins and Nancy was a Nickname - to Kenneth Robbins, a car salesman, and Edith

"Lucky" Luckert, an actress. Her parents split up almost immediately. Nancy lived her first seven years with an aunt in the Washington suburb of Bethesda. She was reclaimed when "Lucky" married Dr Loyal Davis, a Chicago surgeon, a staunch and respected conservative. Eventually, Nancy tracked down her real father and persuaded him to sign away his parental rights.

She was a mother seven months after marrying Ronald Reagan. They made some indifferent films together before Mr Reagan moved into politics, including one called *A Turkey for the President*.

When eventually she arrived in the White House she was chastised by columnists and others for spending a million dollars - most of it procured from rich friends - on refurbishing the building and buying 220 place settings of the best bone china for official entertaining. That kind of ostentation has stopped - the public relations people explained how insensitive it was at a time of national stringency.

A Washington Post columnist once wrote that Nancy Reagan was not a caring First Lady, that she was "far more interested in being socially chic than socially useful. We had gotten used to something more". I cannot think of even the most acerbic Washington columnist who would write that now.

How much influence does Nancy Reagan wield over the President, his policies, his

firings and hirings? Some say considerable, some say minimal. In an interview this week she was at pains to point out that in the White House it was her husband who wore the pants. She obviously has played a part in staff appointments in the White House, but how extensive her influence is a secret probably known only to the Reagans. Nancy's overriding concern, certainly, is her husband. She protested when he was travelling too much. She complained that he had too many appointments. Whatever Nancy Reagan does, whatever sort of person she might appear to be, she stands little chance of being really popular.

Of Mary Todd Lincoln it was said that she was shopping mad. Edith Galt Wilson was accused of running the country after her husband's stroke. Eleanor Roosevelt supposedly interfered too much in the affairs of government. Jacqueline Kennedy was superior and aloof and spent wildly. Pat Nixon was called "Plastic Pat." Betty Ford - for reasons perhaps now better understood - was embarrassingly forthright.

Nancy Reagan has managed to shed many of the labels hung upon her. The newest one is patronizing in the extreme: it says, essentially, "Not as bad as she was". Such is the hopelessness of being a popular president's wife, except of course with the President and the exclusive, private cadre of discreet personal friends.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Gas hazards

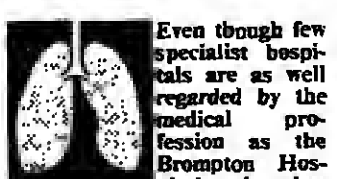
The horror of the Putney explosion and the disrupted traffic in Piccadilly are reminders of the explosive potential of methane, and the need for special care when frozen pipes can result in burst boilers and fractured gas pipes; cold weather also results in a series of less dramatic accidents due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by the use of defective appliances. The gas board can protect the public to some extent from the dangers of leakage by including easily detected mercaptan, an evil-smelling organic sulphur compound, with the inert natural gas, methane; but it is up to the

consumers to see that their gas fires are efficient.

Dr Tony Buckley, chief medical adviser to the gas board, told *The Times* that it was impossible to be poisoned by natural gas if the appliance was in good working order and had been properly installed with an adequate air supply and flue. If, however, there is an inadequate air supply in the room because of over-enthusiastic draught exclusion and double glazing, and when the flue is too small, improper combustion can occur and carbon monoxide be produced.

A frequent cause of the disaster is household fluff: "An absolute killer when it accumulates in the air intake and prevents proper combustion of natural gas", says Dr Buckley.

Breathe easy again



Even though few specialist hospitals are as well regarded by the medical profession as the Brompton Hospital, it has needed Princess Margaret's lung biopsy to give the hospital, and the chest diseases it treats, the type of lay publicity which any unit welcomes in its quest for essential research funds. A consultant at the hospital told *The Times* that it is only since her admission that he has been able to introduce himself as a consultant at the Brompton.

A piece of lung tissue can be

collected for examination in a variety of ways; either through a bronchoscope, an illuminated tube passed down the trachea and bronchial tubes, through the skin by using various types of needles or by open lung biopsy.

The advantages of a minor operation, the open lung biopsy, in order to take a specimen for microscopic examination, are its safety and accuracy. The improved diagnostic accuracy stems from the doctor's ability to inspect the lung and select a piece which is truly representative of the disease. The procedure is also safer than closed methods of biopsy.

Arctic at home



Dr Alasdair Smith, though he had treated his last case of frostbite when, after eight years in Arctic Labrador, he left his huskies behind him and returned to his Oxford practice; but he had taken account neither of this year's savage weather, nor the British love of skiing. This week he returned from being doctor to a prep school skiing party in Switzerland, where 30 of the 105 people on the holiday needed treatment for significant degrees of frost nip, the condition when the skin only is damaged, or frostbite when the blood vessels are also involved.

Surgeon Captain Frank Golden, director of research at the Institute of Naval Medicine, said although frostbite was likely to occur more readily in extremely cold weather, temperatures below freezing could result in human tissue falling below 0.55°C, the point at which damaging crystals could form.

Frost nip is common in skiing: the cheeks, nose, ears, chin and hands are particularly vulnerable to the rush of the cold wind which strikes them during a downhill run. Feet are

endangered by standing around, and are put at increased risk by the British dislike of long johns, neglecting the thighs and lower limbs, so that when the blood reaches the feet it is already chilled.

Dr Smith and Surgeon Captain Golden both emphasized the need for warm clothing to cover as much exposed skin surface as possible; both warned of the dangers of tight clothing impeding the circulation. A second pair of socks, if the boots were too tight, could increase the risk of frostbite by inhibiting the circulation. Boots should be done up firmly to give support to the ankle; but not so they are constricting. Other clothes too should be loose. Dr Smith said that this was dramatically demonstrated when he was in the Arctic and skin-hugging jeans first became the international uniform of youth. However provocative this fashion might have been in a Liverpool cellar, it lost its appeal in Labrador after it became common knowledge that several patients had suffered severe genital burns.

The experts both agreed that too gloomy a prognosis was often given in cases of frostbite: it was easy to mistake the black, dry, skin formed after a blood blister had dried for gangrene.

Rash thoughts



Fungal and yeast infections of the skin and mucous membranes are so common that a doctor can expect to find sufferers from

athlete's foot, dhoti itch, nappy rash or thrush in most queues whether they are in a GP's surgery or a special clinic. In the past week or two after a warning from the Committee on Safety of Medicines had been issued about the use of an antifungal agent some of these patients have been alarmed by headlines which they have mistakenly understood to imply that their treatment, usually a tube of cream, packet of pessaries, or a bottle of lotion might result in death from liver failure.

The headlines did not represent the tone of the letter. No preparations made for external application of any of the commonly prescribed anti-fungal or anti-yeast preparations have been shown to cause any serious side effects; an oral preparation, a tablet or suspension of one of the less frequently used compounds, ketoconazole (Nizoral), has in 82 cases caused some liver trouble: five of these patients have died. But it seems probable that even in these cases other factors, including alcohol, may have been involved.

The letter suggested that when there were so many absolutely safe ways of treating these common conditions it was unnecessary to take even the slight risk which would be involved by prescribing Nizoral tablets. It has been emphasized that sometimes a seriously ill patient needs the drug for generalized fungal or yeast infection. In these cases the physician might consider that the minute hazard was worth taking.

The rest of humanity, disturbed by so itchy foot, or groin, can be assured that the prescribed cream is as innocent as it looks.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

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THE TIMES DIARY

Shared interest

John Butcher, the junior industry minister with specific responsibilities for the software industry, has a shareholding of at least 1 per cent in a company called Applied Computer Techniques (Holdings) Ltd, according to the Register of Members' Interests. "There's absolutely no conflict of interest," Butcher insisted yesterday. He has, he tells me, informed his permanent secretary, senior officials and ministerial colleagues in the department and asked that papers involving ACT should not be passed to his office. The shares, he says, are held in blind trust in another name; he is not sure how many there are, he has had them for three years, and declared them this year for the first time not because he had to, but because he "felt it best to be overzealous." All well and good. His admission does, however, open up the question of the relaxed Tory attitude to ministerial shareholdings which disturbs the opposition and leaves ministers vulnerable to criticism. The prospects of high-tech companies does, after all, depend largely on the general policy decisions of one man — John Butcher.

Knews

It's not every week that the Jewish Chronicle has a world exclusive. In November they had one — and decided not to use it. Editor Geoffrey Paul first got wind of the mass airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel in October. Within a month he had all the information he needed to run the story — weeks before the rest of the world caught on to it. A fortnight ago, Paul has no regrets. "We decided breaking the story was not worth a single life," he tells me. More than 7,000 Falashas subsequently left Ethiopia before publicity ground Operation Moses to a halt.

Tooth and nail

Hansard reports a hitherto unnoticed clash between two of the Conservatives' more flamboyant backbenchers. It begins with Edwin Currie's attempt to interrupt Nicholas Fairbairn's speech on Monday against fluoridation. Fairbairn: "No, I shall not give way. I was relieved to discover that my Hon. Friend was in favour of fluoridation because that confirmed my conviction against it." Mrs Currie: "Is my Hon. and Learned Friend seriously saying that no one ever died under general anaesthetic for dental treatment?" Fairbairn: "...if that is the basis of my Hon. Friend's argument, I can say only that I hope she will take a general anaesthetic frequently."

Room service

The present influx of tourists ensures that the Dorchester Hotel's new owner, the Sultan of Brunei, is unlikely to have to unravel a second run of the great empty room mystery of the late 1970s. According to a senior director at the time, the number of rooms let, as recorded by the reception desk, never quite tallied with the housekeeping department's records of numbers of rooms slept in. An independent auditor was duly called in. After extensive investigation it emerged the reason was not financial skulduggery: it was simply that some members of staff, rather more interested in each other than the guests, had taken to using vacant rooms for their own romantic purposes.

BARRY FANTONI



"That's good. It means we'll have ads in between after all!"

Making waves

Sir Alfred Sherman, former political adviser to the Prime Minister and Centre for Policy Studies director until his departure last summer, clearly misses the limelight. He is soon to announce the creation of a new "think tank," aided by a dozen as-yet-unnamed businessmen, academics, literati, journalists and fellow ex-prime ministerial advisers who apparently share a belief that the CPS has become moribund and conformist. The group, to be called Policy Search, will be self-financing, non-party political and, Sir Alfred insists, "a public service." He has grandiose aims. It will not fear to criticise the Government, he says. Its work will "generate a new sense of intellectual excitement... be critical of everything... question the unquestioned... work towards a new consensus and as soon as we get it, attack it." And if, as the CPS likes to think it did with Mrs Thatcher, it succeeds in inventing a new prime minister, that will not doubt be pleasing too.

PHS

Put tapping under the law

By Steven Norris

The Government will very shortly be publishing its White Paper on telephone tapping. It comes as a response to the decision of the European Court in the Malone case, which cast doubt on the present system of authorising phone taps in the UK. To its credit, the Government promised action, but will it go far enough? So far, the prospects look fairly bleak.

Last year's Data Protection Act stemmed from a Council of Europe convention. This asserted that individuals are under threat unless special measures are taken to control the use and spread of confidential personal information, which can now be easily obtained and speeded around the world without any checks about accuracy being made.

Britain agreed in principle but when the Bill appeared it seemed to many to be more concerned with the problems of data users than the rights of data subjects. We needed an Act in order to conform to the European convention because it would cost us jobs and exports if we did not. We were given an Act which did just that and no more.

All the signs are that the minimalist approach is now going to be applied to protection of privacy, and yet there can be few civil rights issues which are more important in a free society. If Leon Brittan proposes to deal only with the procedure for authorising official telephone taps which is all he has to do to satisfy the European Court he will be ignoring the appalling irony that private surveillance, including telephone tapping, is now almost totally outside the scope of the law.

Not surprisingly, no one applies for official permission to commit industrial espionage, to conduct surveillance on a party to a matrimonial dispute or simply to help commit a criminal offence. Yet if and when the bugging is uncovered the outraged victim finds that, apart from a possible minor breach of the Wireless Telegraphy Act, and the most tenuous of technical trespass, the offender can escape scot-free. Nor does he even have a civil remedy for breach of confidence he has a civil right of damages if B discloses the confidence. If C is tapping the conversation and makes the disclosure, neither A nor B can currently do anything about it. The Law Commission spells this out to the Government in 1981, but so far its warnings have gone unheeded.

There are virtually no criminal sanctions against surveillance and precious little civil protection. And who believes the only way to start a surveillance network is by telephone tapping alone? Sophisticated bugging devices can now be purchased quite openly, and unless we want to see our own right to privacy and confidentiality disappear, we have to legislate for tomorrow's technology today.

Of course the British often pride themselves that this sort of conduct may happen across the Atlantic or on the Continent, but never here. But in practice we already seem to have slipped uncomfortably behind most other European countries, who have been much more alive to the dangers. The UK is now almost the only

European state where government tapping is invariably approved by administrative authority in the person of the Home Secretary, judge and jury in his own court. No one represents the person whose confidentiality is to be breached, and there is no independent judicial involvement or scrutiny.

Meanwhile, under Swiss law, judges are obliged to submit a copy of any decision to tap a phone and an explanation of their reasons for approval by the President of the Indictments, who can revoke the authorization if he decides there has been a "breach of the federal law, including an over-stepping or abuse of discretionary powers". West Germany is the only other power whose arrangements have been examined by the European Court. There, authorization is requested by either the administrative or judicial authority depending on the purpose of the surveillance.

Leon Brittan is undoubtedly a libertarian by nature. He must surely know that these issues are too important to be brushed aside because of a vague belief that "it could never happen here". He will appreciate that history shows all too frequently that when any society takes its liberties too much for granted it has started on the path of losing them. Vice-Chancellor Megarry, commenting on the Malone case, asserted that the issues "cried out for legislation". The Government now has the opportunity to answer that cry and we must hope that it is prepared to grasp it with both hands.

The author is Conservative MP for Oxford East.

Diana Geddes considers the future of Le Monde under its new editor

Can this man change the world?

André Fontaine, one of France's most distinguished journalists, is expected to be confirmed today as the new editor-in-chief of *Le Monde*. But will he be capable of willing to carry out the radical changes deemed necessary to rescue France's leading national daily from the worst crisis of its 40-year history? Is there indeed any longer a viable place for a serious journal of record such as *Le Monde*?

Over the last three years, *Le Monde* has accumulated a deficit of nearly £7m. Circulation has fallen by 15 per cent to 360,000, and advertising revenue has slumped. That might not be so disastrous if the paper had some wealthy press magnate to tide it over a difficult period, but it has no outside capital on which it can draw. It has now literally no money left with which to pay even its own staff. Something has to be done immediately or it will be forced to start bankruptcy proceedings, although there is no question of an immediate threat of closure.

The paper is in disarray. Once regarded as the paper which everyone who was anyone must read, it is now seen as rather grey and tired, too verbose, overly opinionated, and more than a little complacent. Ever since the Socialists came to power in 1981, the traditionally left-of-centre paper seems to have been unable to find a satisfactory new role or identity. It has lost its way.

The paper's fortunes were already in decline after a decade of poor financial management when the ill-fated André Laurens took the helm in May 1982. M. Laurens, the much liked but rather colourless political editor then aged 47, was chosen after two years of highly damaging, in-fighting and political manoeuvring as a compromise candidate to succeed the dynamic Jacques Fauvet on his retirement.

Despite carrying out some important economies, including cutting 150 out of 1,350 jobs, it soon became clear that Laurens was simply not up to the task. He was too shy and retiring to provide a much-needed public figurehead, and apparently too weak (or too nice) to take the tough action required to sort out the paper's financial problems, calibrate the demoralized staff, and mark out a clear new direction for the paper's future.

His rescue plan, involving a 15 per cent cut in salaries, the sale of the paper's offices near the Opéra, and the closure of one of its two print works with the loss of a further undisclosed number of jobs, was almost doomed to failure before it was announced. He simply did not have the confidence of the journalists, and that, on a paper with *Le Monde*'s structure was vital. It was



Le Monde's sign: the new editor. Below: journalists come for the vote at a general meeting

their rejection of his plans that led to his resignation last month.

Le Monde is unusual institution: a private company largely owned and run by its 185 journalists. They represent only 14 per cent of the total staff, but own 40 per cent of the shares; another 40 per cent is owned by 15 private individuals, including Hubert Beuve-Méry, *Le Monde*'s founder and editor for 25 years; 5 per cent is owned by the white-collar staff; and the remaining 10 per cent by the editor-in-chief. Any important change in the running of the paper, such as the appointment of a new editor or the adoption of a new financial plan, has to be submitted first to the journalists and then, if approved, to a full meeting of shareholders.

This model of democracy, dreamed up by Beuve-Méry, gives the journalists extraordinary power over the paper's fortunes which

many, both inside and outside *Le Monde*, are beginning to regard as not wholly salutary. "We are in the process of dying from our democracy," one journalist commented. "To be able to vote for things is good if you say 'yes' once in a while. But it has been consistently 'no' to everything that has been proposed for far too long. The paper has become paralyzed."

It is probably the vision of the precipice at their feet which prompted the journalists on Tuesday to give Fontaine, whom they have rejected twice before as editor in chief, the 60 per cent of the vote he needed on the first round.

M. Fontaine has already put forward the outline of his rescue plan for the paper. It would involve:

- The introduction of outside funding, preferably from financial institutions rather than wealthy individuals to minimise the danger of any interference in *Le Monde*'s

much-prized independence. The new outside shareholders would nevertheless be granted voting rights. To accommodate this, and to curb criticism of the journalists' power, Mr. Fontaine proposes cutting the journalists' proportion of shares to 26 or 27 per cent. That, he maintained, would still be large enough to enable them to block unpalatable proposals.

- An immediate 10 per cent across-the-board cut in salaries pending reform of the whole salary structure.

- In extremis, the sale of the paper's offices, valued at about 80 million francs, although 20 million of this is mortgaged. Fontaine is anxious to avoid this step, however.

- Closing one of the print works, and sharing print facilities with other papers.

- A reinvigoration of the paper itself, with less emphasis on lengthy political speeches and commentaries, and more space devoted to economic affairs, medicine, science, technology and readers' letters.

M. Fontaine is a man of outstanding intellectual ability and great charm. At the age of 63, he is in many ways a more modern man than the much younger Laurens. Most of the *Le Monde* journalists feel that he will be an excellent ambassador for their paper.

There are doubts, however. His plan sounds courageous, but is it radical enough, and is he tough enough to see it through? Some journalists complain that he lacks decision and is too easily swayed. Others fear that his remarkably good contacts with the top people in France, both on the right and left, make for too cosy a relationship.

Le Monde is not alone in its troubles. Virtually the whole of the National French press, and much of the normally more stable provincial press, are suffering from declining sales and falling advertising revenue as a result of the economic crisis and rapidly growing competition from radio and television.

A glowing and much-quoted exception is *Libération*, the lively, left-wing daily which has become the "in" paper to read in French intellectual and government circles, and whose sales have jumped up by a third over the past year. It has become fashionable to suggest that this is an example that *Le Monde* should follow. But *Libération*'s sales are still only one third of *Le Monde*'s. It is often more original and always less stuffy, but it does not approach *Le Monde*'s standards of authority, accuracy, or completeness. For all its problems, *Le Monde* remains indisputably France's greatest daily and one of the great papers of the world.

Alliance show that gets a bad review

David Watt

Anyone surprised at the indifference and even hostility now being displayed by many politicians towards the BBC in its hour of need would have been much enlightened by a visit to the High Court this week where the Corporation's fatal political flat-footedness has once again been displayed to fine effect.

If you read to the end of this article you will not be surprised that the case I refer to has had almost no coverage on television and very little in the press, so let me briefly explain the situation. Dr Owen and Mr David Steel have been protesting since June 1983 over their treatment by the broadcasting authorities. Neither the BBC nor ITV, they claim, has made the faintest attempt, in treating current affairs and news, to reflect the Alliance's near-parity with Labour votes at the general election, although the political parties have now agreed a formula for party political broadcasts which roughly reflects the popular voting pattern.

Having applied unavailingly to the chairman of the BBC and the IBA for satisfaction, the Alliance leaders made a formal complaint last June to Lady Pike, the chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission which was set up by the 1981 Broadcasting Act. The commission promptly declined this poisoned cup, replying that their terms of reference allowed them to consider complaints only about a particular programme and that they could not deal with criticism of the balance of editorial policy as a whole. To make quite sure they were not imported further on the subject they added, gratuitously, that even if such a complaint had been within their jurisdiction they would have exercised their discretion under the Act, and refused to hear it. Dr Owen's response has been to ask the courts to rule that the complaint is within the commission's scope and force the commission to consider it.

The hearing of this case, on which Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Taylor have, with understandable caution, reserved judgment, seems to me to have left the narrow argument nicely poised. It is clear from the statute that Parliament did not actually envisage the Barons and her merry men deciding a matter of this kind. It is equally clear that, even if they were suddenly endowed with unexpected new gifts of intelligence, insight and impartiality their judgment would not, under present law, have the slightest binding force on the broadcasting authorities or on individual producers.

On the other hand, if the commission is not to adjudicate on what is and what is not "fair" time, who is? It would be very difficult, as well as, objectionable, for the politicians themselves to impose detailed guidelines on supposedly independent broadcasters. The Governors of the BBC and the members of the IBA could be said (and are said by the commission) to be the proper custodians of fairness, but what if they fail to do their duty, or (as in this case) strike a balance over which there are serious protests? Where is the court of appeal?

This question leads into deep waters at once; it appears that while the IBA is enjoined by law to be "fair" and can therefore be chal-

lenged in the courts if it is not, the BBC, which is set up by Royal Charter, is under no such legal constraint. The consequence — as the commission's counsel conceded in court this week — is that if no Alliance spokesman were ever permitted to appear on the BBC at all and if, as the commission claims, it is none of its business to beat the governors over the head, then no other redress whatever is available.

The traditional defence of this situation — which is naturally promulgated by the main parties (whom it benefits) — is a belated brasserie affair: on the one hand "it's just your bad luck for losing, so there" and on the other, even if it is ungodly unfair, there are good technical reasons why it can't be changed. But the "hard cheese" argument is extremely hard to sustain against the evidence offered to the High Court this week by the SDP of what has actually been happening on the television screens. A detailed analysis conducted by them of the two main evening news programmes over 10 weeks between February and April last year shows that Conservative (or misallied) spokesmen received 76 per cent of allotted news time, Labour 25% and the Alliance 5 per cent. Rather too much for most non-partisan stomachs.

The technical let-out is that newsgatherers must follow the news: it is inevitable that the government of the day, which "makes" much of the news, should get the lion's share of the news, and the Alliance, with the exception of its two leaders, is seldom newsworthy. There is a real point here, of course, but does it come near to justifying the finding of the survey?

The truth is that programme-makers cannot twist the news to suit the Alliance, but they can and do make a deliberate choice of whom they wish to comment on. The proof of this, one is led to say, was read to the High Court last Monday in the form of a wonderfully insolent letter from the late George Howard, then chairman of the BBC, to the two Alliance leaders in July, 1983. When they had suggested to him that the general election results ought to affect the two-party near-monopoly of the BBC's coverage.

"Parliamentary convention," he said, "nominates the Opposition party with most seats as Her Majesty's Opposition. As far as I know, that continues to be the convention. It is one which we shall continue to observe in our coverage when seeking official comment on announcements of public policy. Your Alliance may disagree with the electoral system which awards you only 23 seats, but that is the reality... and the one that must be uppermost in our minds. So, there can be no question of the BBC's granting to the Alliance near-parity of coverage with the Labour Party."

Here is the "hard cheese" doctrine with a vengeance. For the BBC in its present straits it is arguably the safest, being the one least likely to upset the Prime Minister. What is indefensible is that, such an *ex cathedra* statement can be handed down without any possibility of challenge or opposition, simply political challenge or review. If the Broadcasting Complaints Commission will not provide a forum, perhaps we should, like the Americans, have a regulatory Communications Commission that will.

Philip Howard

Bespoke words, cut to fit

In the English language there are many mansions, cellars, cupboards, departments and registers: from *Sirine* to *Sociologie*. The two great registers are written and spoken English, which are almost two different languages. You have only to listen to a tape-recorder of yourself speaking, or to read a transcript of an unscripted talk to see the difference. Oral English is unbuttoned, ungrammatical, catachrestic, and full of pauses and cottonwool fillers such as "You know what I mean?" to give oneself time to work out what one is going to say next. It is to be written English, in the wardrobe, jeans and a T-shirt are to the old fish-and-soup white tie and tails.

Very few people speak as they write, and they tend to be sages. I am told that Bertie Russell and Bernard Shaw spoke in the same sort of structured way that they wrote. In our generation Lord Quinon and B. Levin are famous for their carefully spoken words. Put them in front of a microphone and they will talk real prose until the cows come home without drawing breath. But the transcript of even their talk will occasionally contain flaws that they would not let by in their written work. Most of us discriminate sharply between our written and our spoken English. If we fail to do so, and use English suitable for a *Times* leader, full of "nevertheless" and "circadian rhythms", in the pub, or vice versa, we shall soon be talking to ourselves or answering a lot of sarcastic letters to the Editor.

Journoes who work with the written word are seldom at ease with spoken English. With a typewriter, you can look at what you have written, say "Damn", rip the sheet of paper out of the roller, and start again to get it right; or, *mutatis mutandis*, press the appropriate button for erasure on the word processor; in my case certainly the wrong foot knob.

Nevertheless, and in the circadian rhythms of life in the word factory, we have all been having to do more than our wont with oral English because of the deeply wonderful *Times* bicentenary. "Can we now explain in 18 seconds exactly about *The Times* policy on

appeasement, fairly, and in terms that can be understood by chaps and chappesses in northern drinking clubs, who do not normally take *The Times*, or even know what it is?" So, the strings of words, and toss them around, and cut them simply and orally them for an hour or so, until you have 18 seconds exactly, no more and no less. And then Robert Fleming, the producer, puts his head in his hands and says, "It's not quite right." Or Catherine Freeman wants to beef it up a bit. Or Tony Quayle says, "I cannot say that on the air." And it is back to the clip-board, chaps.

The last week of production of the *Times* TV film about *The Times*, *The Greatest Newspaper in the World*, consisted of about 16 hours a day sitting to a small box chipping away at words to fit pictures. The pains to get it right were very impressive. The pain and frustration were considerable. It says something complimentary about our nature that nobody came out with a bloody nose. Don't tell them but I suspect that telly journoes, like the typing sort, take a masochistic pleasure in expanding their work right up to the deadline.

This explains why some pieces from the cutting-room floor that appeared in *The Times* eventually appeared in the programme also. They had been reinstated from the cutting-room floor, in the "rilly" seven regis of the news puzzle. And there is yet another job. I am quite unsuited for keeping tabs on all those fiddly bits of tape. When we wrote that 30-hours-of-film-ended-up on the cutting-room floor, we were carried away by hyperbole and misunderstanding of the mystère. At a time of retirement at 64, I am so wasteful a disposition could cost Fleming his job. It was more like 20 hours, or shall we say 15. So don't be a cad, Cowgill, and a gremlin in the office had us describing Tony Lee as the president, when he was in fact the indefatigable researcher. Even the written word is not a small box chipping away at words to fit pictures, and making the programme go right, making the private life of a newspaper intelligible and meaningful to those outside the ink trade.

David Felton
Labour correspondent



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE CAP MUST NOW FIT

The arithmetic of this year's rate support grant is done. The apparatus of targets and penalties is in place. From here on, through the spring budgetary cycle of the nation's local authorities, both the figures and the political choices they constrain are clear. We may rue the Government's failure over five years to re-structure local self-government, its paradoxical centralization of power in pursuit of a reduction in the scale of municipal operations, its casual loading into the offices of Whitehall bureaucrats of decisions that properly belong in the shires and the boroughs. However, the time for regret about the direction of the Government's strategy for local affairs is past. The Rates Act, 1984, is the law. And the next few months must see its purposes realized in the containment of rate levies and reduction of aggregate council spending.

But wait. The Secretary of State for the Environment sets down a date for hearing appeals by the councils whose rates are being limited by central decree and then extends it. On Wednesday Environment Department officials say there is a new deadline of next Thursday — when the parliamentary order has to be laid — but there could be, they say *ad hoc* rate, scope for adjustments to figures later still. Meanwhile there is talk by the Secretary of State's representatives of possible "mistakes" in calculations. He announces his willingness to see the hard-line councils as a self-constituted group, despite giving earlier a strong impression that since rates targets were fixed individually there was no logic in collective discussions.

All this, Mr Jenkin might tell us, indicates statutory reasonableness on his part. Perhaps. But it serves ultimately to reduce public administration to the

level of the bazaar. This is public money being bandied over the counter at the discretion of ministers and the whim of councillors. In December we were told that the rates targets were fixed. Councils were given both expenditure levels and approved rate poundages. Now it seems those figures were merely illustrative. Unless Mr Jenkin is planning to alter targets (at what cost to the 1985-86 public spending plans) then the purpose of his niceties with councillors is unclear.

The councillors from Sheffield, from Lambeth, from the Greater London Council go to Mr Jenkin asking for one thing — money. Some want only enough to buy them the illusion of concession and so hoodwink the Labour Party. Others want it all. With linguistic extravagance typical of Liverpool, Councillor Hutton talks of bloodying the Prime Minister's nose. A cleverer militant Councillor McDonnell from the GLC says he wants £4 billion. Mr Blunkett of Sheffield says he merely wants the repeal of the 1984 Act, the emasculation of the 1980 Local Government Planning and Land Act and the 1982 Local Government Finance Act — yes, and money, too. These are the men to whom Mr Jenkin says his door is ever open. The question again is for what purposes other than subversion of the regime of expenditure control?

Mr Jenkin should brook no further delay. He has taken, as he puts it, a proxy for the ratepayers of the rate-capped districts. He owes them at least a speedy determination. He should seek the Parliamentary Orders imposing rates limits as soon as possible and before then, entertain an emergency approach from an individual council only if in the fullest presentation of its financial circumstances new facts are attested. The law may

require the secretary of state to hold himself open for consultation but sound administration requires him to act with celerity. It is of course open to Parliament — swayed by arguments from the rate-capped councils — to seek to vary the rates orders. But once approved there must be no repetition of last year's protracted sequence of "negotiation" between the secretary of State and blackmailing local councillors.

Their election admits councillors to the exercise of powers within the law. No law requires a councillor, singularly or collectively, to vote to make a rate (except in a precepting authority such as the GLC). The Labour hardliners could, if they united, at the very least test both the law and the available mechanisms for detecting and remedying default. But there is nothing that need scare Labour is disunited. Councillors are loathe to relinquish the appointments of power. The government's target figures are, in most cases, achievable without local calamity. Wild talk about loan default is, in most cases, just that and can be ignored.

The path of selective control of rates has always threatened to bring the government up against local militants who might deliver on their rhetoric with some politically embarrassing dislocation of popular services. But the government has gone too far down this road to worry now about the element of risk in its strategy. The time is for resolution. A start should be made at once by a government announcement that it will not pay rate support grant to councils which by the end of March have not made a valid rate. That threat by striking the Labour Party where it hurts — in the pockets of the municipal unions — will at once distinguish the town hall posturers from the genuine revolutionaries.

THE ISRAELIS DEPART

Israel's decision to withdraw from Southern Lebanon has been analysed as a victory for the "Shiite school" over the "Palestinian school" among Israeli decision-makers. By implication that makes it also a victory for the Shiite resistance in South Lebanon itself, which has achieved what no Palestinian resistance so far has. It has obtained an Israeli retreat by convincing Israeli leaders that they can enjoy a quieter and safer life if they withdraw than if they stay. That is partly because the Lebanese Shiites have proved much tougher and more effective than the Palestinians as guerrilla fighters, but partly because being Lebanese has a great political advantage over being Palestinian.

A Lebanese can fight for the complete liberation of his homeland without directly threatening Israel's existence. A Palestinian cannot. Faced with Lebanese resistance, Israel can take a calculated gamble that it will leave her alone once she withdraws from Lebanon, even without any explicit agreement to that effect. Faced with Palestinian resistance she feels obliged to treat even explicit offers of peace with great suspicion, since she knows that the full aspirations of Palestinian nationalism could not be satisfied by anything less than her complete disappearance.

But the decision to withdraw is above all a victory for common sense — the common sense of Israel's army commanders and of her defence minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin. They have not flinched from using very harsh methods in dealing with the resistance from day to day, but they have never mistaken such methods for a solution. As Mr Rabin remarked after ordering his most drastic clampdown last month, "today,

what we face is a Shia-Israeli war rather than a PLO-Israeli war, and I would like to avoid it." And this week in explaining the decision to withdraw, he said: "The Shiites and we will have to learn to live peacefully together. I don't see any conflict of interest between them and us."

It is unlikely, however, that Mr Rabin and his colleagues will entrust the security of Israel's northern border entirely to a spontaneous outburst of Shiite goodwill. Certainly they hope that Lebanese Shiites will find no motive for attacking Israel once Israel has withdrawn, but will on the contrary find a common interest with Israel in preventing renewed infiltration of the region by Palestinian trouble-makers. Indeed, one of Israel's reasons for not delaying the withdrawal any longer is that, quite clearly, the longer the occupation continues the stronger the hold on the population of pro-Khomeini zealots ready to engage in a *jihad* against Zionism, at the expense of the primarily Lebanese nationalist Amal movement.

But equally clearly Israel would have preferred to withdraw on the basis of an agreement including a role for her protégés, the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA), and a deployment of UNIFIL (the United Nations "interim" Force, whose "interim" has lasted since 1978) well to the north of its present lines. Only when it became clear that the Lebanese Government, in its post-1984 Syrian-dominated form, would not concede either of these points did Israel decide to go ahead and withdraw unilaterally.

Israel cannot unilaterally dictate the deployment of UN troops. She can and no doubt will unilaterally hand over territory to the SLA, as she did in 1978 to its predecessor under Major Saad Haddad. Unfortunately few who have seen that force in action believe that it is capable of maintaining order in the south and many doubt if it will even remain in existence once the Israelis themselves have gone.

Unifil has a rather better record of peacekeeping in the south, where and when it has been left to get on with the job, and Israel's current interest in its strengthening and extension are a belated tribute to its effectiveness. It is in a way a pity that Israel is asking for this, because it has given the Syrians and Lebanese a reason to oppose it, whereas it is desirable much more for reasons of Lebanese than of Israeli security. It is the Lebanese, and the Palestinian inhabitants of Lebanon, who are the primary victims of Lebanese anarchy, which affects Israel only indirectly and marginally.

Of course it is true that Lebanon's internal security must in the end be assured by the forces of the Lebanese state, whether military, paramilitary or simple police. But obviously it is going to take time for those forces to achieve the necessary strength in relation to the various factional militias. During that time some very nasty things are liable to happen. Israel can help to prevent that by some attempt to disarm as many as possible of the gunmen in the area, and by giving asylum to those who have collaborated with her beyond hope of mercy from the victorious resistance. But the UN could also help by offering its protection to civilians during the immediate period of withdrawal. It can do that without becoming identified with one side in a power struggle, as the French and US contingents of the multinational force did in 1983-4. It has a humanitarian duty to do so.

Soviet defectors

From Count Nikolai Tolstoy
Sir, I am sorry that Mr Vladimir Bukovsky has been persuaded to make an unwittingly unjust attack on me (January 5), based as it is on a series of misconceptions. My criticisms of the handling of the return of the two Russian prisoners were in response to specific questions and I would not otherwise have volunteered them.

It is true that *The Times* reported me as having said that I had offered the hospitality of my home to the prisoners. This "offer" arose, however, from persistent questioning on the subject, at the conclusion of which I agreed that if the soldiers had nowhere else to go I would naturally not refuse them hospitality.

They did not appeal to me as President of the Soviet Prisoners in Afghanistan Rescue Committee (SPARC) and I did not (as Mr Bukovsky claims), say that they did. Neither I or anyone else has ever made the absurd claim, tendentiously refuted by Mr Bukovsky,

that I speak for the Russian community in exile. Finally, it seems particularly unfair to accuse SPARC of being "eager to take credit for something they did not achieve", since the explicit purpose of my criticisms was to disclaim any connection with the operation.

I hope this may end this unhappy rumour. I had to vote for someone to speak for the Russians in emigration, my list would be headed by the names of Solzhenitsyn and Bukovsky.
Yours faithfully,
NIKOLAI TOLSTOY,
Court Close,
Southmoor,
Near Abingdon,
Berkshire,
January 7.

A hero's funeral

From Mr K. N. Marshall
Sir, In your issue of January 10, 1986, reproduced last Thursday (January 6), you reported how, at Nelson's funeral, some of the crew

of the Victory tore up part of the largest ensign which was to be lowered on to the coffin, to furnish them with a memento of their hero. This story has a particular interest for those connected with the Paston School, where Nelson was educated for the years immediately before he went to sea.

Two of these pieces of bunting, which I have good reason to believe are genuine, were given to the school by different donors during my headmastership. Although the school has now become a sixth-form college, these mounted trophies still adorn the walls of the schoolroom in which the brothers Nelson learned their lessons.

It would be interesting to know how many of these pieces, treasured by members of the Victory's crew and passed down for nearly 180 years, are still in existence.
Yours faithfully,
K. N. MARSHALL,
The Lodge,
Cromer Road,
North Walsham,
Norfolk,
January 12.

Moral stance on 'blood-doping'

From Dr N. C. Craig Sharp

Sir, Your correspondent on "blood-doping" notes today (January 12) that "blood transfusions are neither illegal under Olympic rules, nor officially considered as a doping method". Rule 27 of the Olympic Charter begins with "Doping is forbidden". A "list of prohibited drugs" follows, without further definition of "doping".

However, in the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission booklet, issued at the 1976 Montreal Games, the definition of doping prohibits "the use of physiological substances in abnormal amounts and with abnormal methods, with the exclusive aim of attaining an artificial and unfair increase of performance in competitions". This would quite clearly seem to apply to the transfusion of blood.

The detection of such "hyper-transfusions" does at present pose difficulties, but surely an illegal and sporting act is no less so because it cannot yet be detected. If correctly reported, the activities of the American medical team responsible for their cyclists are to be deplored.

In 1981, at the Olympic summit congress in Baden Baden, Sebastian Coe said on behalf of the athletes: "In 'doping'... we call for the life ban of coaches and so-called doctors who administer this evil".

My own fears, as expressed on the pre-Olympic *Tomorrow's World* programme, that international sport could turn into contests between laboratories, will be realised much sooner than expected unless a very strong moral stance is taken against the less easily detected forms of doping.

Yours faithfully,
N. C. CRAIG SHARP, Co-Director,
The Human Motor Performance Laboratory,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston Park Road,
Birmingham,
January 12.

Falklands hospital

From the Representative of the Falkland Islands Government

Sir, I would like to comment briefly upon the extract from Mr Robert Fox's book *Antarctica and the South Atlantic* published in *The Times* of January 7.

I am particularly concerned by the misleading impression created regarding the proposed new hospital and provision of medical services in the Falkland Islands.

The "remains of the walls of the old hospital" to which Mr Fox refers is in fact the Churchill Wing, opened in 1953, which survived the fire largely unscathed, apart from some smoke damage. It is planned that this should accommodate the civilian out-patient and community health-care facilities, whilst a new wing will contain acute cases and surgical facilities.

Plans for sheltered accommodation for the elderly had been drawn up before the hospital fire and the Falkland Islands Government is negotiating for a suitable site. Provision for 11 such units has now been included in the outline plan for the new hospital.

I should like to make it quite clear that the Falkland Islands Government's prime concern in approving these plans is to provide an efficient, comprehensive and cost-effective medical service for the islands. We believe the new hospital will fulfil all these needs.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR CAMERON,
Representative,
Falkland Islands Government,
29 Telford Street,
Westminster, SW1,
January 14.

People and places

From Mr Pat Adams

Sir, "What a wealth of fictional names lies there" — how right Miles Kingston (January 11) is about our villages.

Not long ago, in the Lincolnshire Wolds, a friend saw a signpost which said: "To Mavis Enderby & Old Bolingbroke".

Someone had added "— a son".

Yours faithfully,
PAT ADAMS,
Seage Club,
6 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkley Square, W1,
January 13.

Age of chivalry

From Mrs Ann Appleford

Sir, In the London Tube the other day a young man made way for his wife to sit down next to me in the only seat left. He then sat on her lap.

Yours faithfully,
ANN APPLEFORD,
6 Chelmsford Walk,
Chelmsford,
Essex,
January 11.

Ritual slaughter

From Dr Sydney Torrance

Sir, I do not propose to reply in detail to the letter (January 3) by the Executive Director of the RSPCA.

His organisation's strictures against religious slaughter of animals for food have hitherto been of a speculative nature and were completely unsupported by scientific evidence. This body has now drawn attention to research in New Zealand which appears to support

Laying blame for sterling's collapse

From Mr Roy Jenkins, MP for Glasgow, Hillhead (Scott)

Sir, Your Tuesday leader (January 15) was rightly critical of the Government, but for the wrong reasons. The central fault of the extreme monetarist view which the Government embraces, although not enthusiastically enough for you, is its irrationality. It judges policies by value not by result.

Such anti-empiricism may have its place in certain fields of human endeavour, but not in the management of the economy — or of the exchange rate. These are material processes to be judged by material results.

What actually happens then has to be either ignored or distorted. Lack of confidence in Britain's anti-inflationary prospects is not the reason why the recent strength of the sterling has led to the collapse of sterling, but to a much less severe downward movement in, for example, the French franc.

The primary cause is that the rest of the world cannot see how we are going to pay our way when the oil runs down. Much of our industry was destroyed by the complete neglect that allowed the pound to soar unrealistically in 1980-81. And that part which remains is still so uncompetitive that even with the pound at a weighted trade index of 71 (against 100 to 1975) we have markedly failed to get out full share of the recent surge of imports into the United States.

What is the point of the Government constantly congratulating itself on the splendid leanness of British industry when most of the evidence is that it is malnutrition and not muscular tone which has been achieved?

Then we have the extraordinary pantomime-horse act of 10 Downing Street and the Treasury over last weekend. If July was a rehearsal of incompetence, January's performance showed that practice makes perfect.

Mr Shore's egregiousness of two years ago, when he proclaimed that the policy of a Labour Government would be a gradual devaluation of 30 per cent, pales into insignificance compared with the Government announcing its indifference to a one-dollar pound and then being annoyed at the market reaction. He was only a shadow Chancellor.

A large part of the trouble stems from a combination of the present Chancellor's insensitivity and the Prime Minister's unnamable tendency always to blame something or someone other than herself. As a result, she handles the exchange rate

with peculiar ineptitude. It cannot, of course, be commanded by any Government. But it can be considerably influenced by a firm and consistent policy to behave less erratically and more in our national interests.

This is not achieved by treating market forces as though they were junior ministers, first patted on the head as her own special progeny, then sternly ordered to stop behaving independently and improperly, and finally assailed with a flailing mass of misleading statistics.

To suggest, as the Prime Minister did on Tuesday, that the performance of the D-Mark and the pound are similar is to stretch credulity beyond the limit, and to bewail, as she also did, the fact that no single country has reserves large enough to make an impact on speculation (which is not wholly true) while standing out from achieving the combined *masse de manoeuvre* which could come from membership of the EMS (European Monetary System), is, to say the least, perverse.

The Government's main form of defence is the purely debating one of asking any critic exactly what exchange rate they want. There is no immaculate answer, if only because it is often difficult to move away from a position to which a rate would not have wished to get in the first place.

What can be said, however, is that we want one good deal more stable than we have seen in the past 31 years of plunge from \$2.20 to \$1.10 and that we want one which is at least partly determined by some rational thought in the Treasury and the Bank of England.

Sterling is no longer in the upper second rank of world currencies, as are the yen and the D-Mark, but its management is still of great importance to Britain and some considerable importance to the world.

The evidence steadily mounts that Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson, by performance and temperament, are unfitted to be in charge of such a currency. It is almost impossible to imagine the comment which would have been forthcoming from the Opposition, the City and, not least, you, Sir, had recent *dégringolades* been presided over by anyone other than a Conservative Prime Minister and Chancellor.
Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS,
St Amand's House,
East Hendred,
Oxfordshire,
January 17.

Testing teacher merit

From Professor W. R. Niblett

Sir, As a former educator of teachers, now safely retired, I can perhaps contribute a couple of more or less objective notes on the testing of teacher quality.

Most departments and colleges preparing teachers for their career — regrettably or not — to classify their students not only as pass or fail in "practical teaching" but, if they passed, as the large majority did, to categorise their suitability for the classroom as A, B, C or D. No sensible examiner, external or internal, thought that these were permanent or immutable pigeon-holes.

Rarely was a candidate graded A (4 per cent to 8 per cent of the total) who had not some outstanding, even thrilling, promise; or one graded D who could with confidence be expected to do well in the classroom without help in the early years of a career. Yet the chances of A's being appointed to posts were often only marginally better than the C's and D's; for the assessment arrived at by the college department was often not given much weight by appointing

schools or authorities. (Could this, ironically, have been due to a distrust of training institutions and all their works?)

There are many factors which affect teachers' success in their profession besides their skill as instructors. One of these is their luck in having a head or head of department who understands and appreciates them; another is their being able to move from one school to another at the right time. Too simplistic a judgement of professional competence can lead to the disappearance from the profession of some whose fault is loss of hope, not lack of teaching potential.

I trust that any attempt to weed out the weak will bear in mind (i) that great effort should be made to reduce to as low a level as possible the risk of appointing the unpromising in the first place, and (ii) that judging merit among teachers, both inexperienced and experienced, is a subtle, human and many-sided business.

Yours faithfully,
ROY NIBLETT,
Pinfarthings,
Stroud,
Gloucestershire.

Taxing pension funds

From Mr N. Hambley

Sir, I was astounded to hear the recent threats to the carefully contributed savings made via private individual and company pension schemes.

Financial retirement plans depend crucially on the continuation of existing tax treatment of pension contributions, if funds and benefits are to remain viable. This treatment has been stable most of this century and needs to be steady to allow any sensible long-term plan for the duration of a career.

In old age it must be preferable to manage one's own deferred income plan, without assistance or expensive welfare handouts. To change the rules of fair play in the middle of the game seems unwise and undemocratic.

Pension tax changes should only be considered after lengthy debate and from a properly mandated position. Pension benefits are possibly the second most important investment during an average lifetime. I would like the time and opportunity to vote on this important and inherently long-term issue. As I am sure that millions in the private and public sectors will feel

the same when the full implications are realised.
Yours faithfully,
N. HAMBLEY,
Unit Automation,
171 Liverpool Road,
Birkdale,
Southport,
Merseyside.

Expelled by the Nazis

From Mr Charles W. Robinson

Sir, In Mr Roy Jenkins's contribution to your bicentenary booklet there is an italicised reference (p.33) to the expulsion of your Berlin Correspondent, Norman Ebbutt, from Germany on August 19, 1937.

On the day before that event I wrote from my lodgings in Germany supporting the valuable contributions which your correspondents within Germany were making at that time. *The Times* printed my letter August 20, and the immediate, but not unforeseen, result was my own expulsion from that country.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES W. ROBINSON,
Flat 6,
The Cloisters,
55 King Street,
Canterbury, Kent,
January 7.

Cohen of Birkenhead, a universally acknowledged expert on the use and interpretation of EEG, stated categorically in the House of Lords in 1962 that this technique could not and should not be used to assess insensibility. As far as I am aware, improvements in technique and instrumentation since then are not such as to alter these conclusions.

At the time, Lord Cohen recommended an investigation. The Jewish community will willingly co-operate in any expert and official investigation covering all aspects of slaughter of animals.
Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY TORRANCE, Chairman,
Shechita Committee,
The Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place, WC1,
January 7.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 15 1916

Allied landings in Gallipoli Peninsula took place on April 25 1915. British, French and Imperial troops as well as units of the Royal Australian Navy were in action. The campaign was disastrous, reinforced only by the indomitable courage of the soldiers under appalling conditions. Casualties totalled over 211,000. The evacuation was completed on January 9 1916 — with one casualty.

FOOLING THE TURK

HOW GALLIPOLI WAS EVACUATED.

(From G. Ward Price)

SALONIKA JAN. 11. The able organisation which has resulted in the evacuation of Gallipoli with just the same success and with the same absence of loss as at Suvla and Anzac, reveals what might otherwise be the rather melancholy spectacle of the winding up of an ill-judged enterprise.

The bloodiness of these two large and delicate military operations, of sealing away by night from an enemy with whom you have been in the closest contact for many months, might, indeed, lead one to undervalue the resource and minute care which have been put into the work. One can say now that when the withdrawal was first decided upon considerable losses were thought to be almost unavoidable. The loss of 20 per cent in killed and wounded would not have been considered surprising. The fact that the Turks found out what was going on and taken measures to hinder embarkation by bombarding the beaches and perhaps attacking the depleted trenches.

As Suvla, and no doubt, at Helles too, the process of evacuation was spread over about 10 nights. In the first of which all the winter stores and superfluous equipment were taken. Then came the stage in which everything was shipped away except the actual food and ammunition needed for the men, and the first drifts of the latter also began to be put on board. The final stage, which at Suvla lasted for two nights, was taken up with embarking guns, transport animals and men in carefully calculated detachments.

"NORMALITY"

At one time it had been determined to fall back to the second line of defence for the last stage, but this would have given clear warning to the Turks of what was going on, and the idea was abandoned in favour of the preservation of absolute normal conditions. This latter motto was so often repeated, indeed, that one overworked Staff Officer, who received news during the critical part of the evacuation proceedings that a baby girl had been born into his household, is stated to have announced his intention to telegraph that the child was to be christened "Normality".

On the last night from 8 o'clock to 1.30am the first-line trenches were held only by picked men from each brigade. This gave about one rifle to every seven yards of front, but the detachment of the 88th Brigade, which had the whole 29th Division's front to cover, was responsible for 3,000 yards of front. There were two lines of trenches behind the first line, and one or two "kops" just above Suvla Beach as well for the purpose of a last stand if necessary.

The orders were that the last men were not to leave until word reached them from the beach that all was clear, and, had the Turks done the unexpected thing and made an infantry attack, these were the men who would have covered the rearward. Altogether it was a most skilfully combined retirement, and its result has happily earned the same reward of full success at Helles and Suvla and Anzac. The force will be ready after a little rest and refitting for use in some new theatre of war, when it is hoped, we shall meet the enemy under conditions less ideally fitted to favour his sole military talent for fighting a stubborn defensive action from behind cover.

VAT on safety

From Dr W. M. C. Allen

Sir, As a medical practitioner closely involved with horse-riding pursuits, I would bring to your notice a most bizarre anomaly in the VAT requirements.

Protective and safety head wear manufactured to BS1 standard for industrial use and for motor cycle riders is exempt from VAT. This exemption is not made for head protection for horse and pony riders. Recently a new British Standard has been promulgated for horse and pony riders and it would seem to be a propitious moment to request that the Treasury should advise the Customs and Excise that horse riders' hats, manufactured to the BS1 standard, should enjoy the same exemption as other protective head wear.

Professional knowledge leads me to point out that any loss to the Exchequer of VAT will be more than made up for by the savings on the DHSS budget in the funding of facilities required to deal with head injuries.

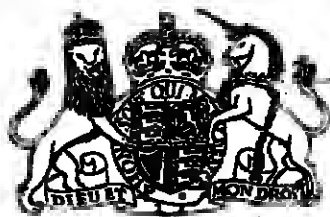
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ALLEN,
4 Topham Square,
Richmond,
Surrey,
January 9.

Time's slow finger

From Mr M. A. Heap

Sir, From time to time the information given in your Anniversaries column is tantalisingly inadequate. On Saturday last (January 5) you stated that Edward the Confessor resigned 1042-66. Why did it take him so long? Surely it should merit inclusion in the record books as the most protracted resignation ever. Or is it that in later life he acquired the habit of resigning from virtually everything and that there is some connection with his confessional propensities?

I suppose it is just possible that he never resigned from anything, but that he became resigned to an awful lot of things which led to his canonization. I am not an historian and would welcome more details.
Yours faithfully,
M. A. HEAP,
14 Broxwood Park,
Tottenham Wood,
Wolverhampton,
January 7.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 17: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this afternoon opened the new Studio Complex of the EMI Screen Entertainment Ltd at EMI Studios, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

Having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hertfordshire (Major-General Sir George Burns), Her Royal Highness unveiled a commemorative plaque and toured the building.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, this evening attended the launch of the book, *The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery*, at the Royal Horse Artillery, St John's Wood, London, NW8, where Her Royal Highness was received by the Officer Commanding The King's Troop (Major Malcolm Wallace). The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 17: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at the Royal Albert Hall on an occasion to pay tribute to the Queen Regent which are celebrating their 300th Anniversary. Lady Angela Oswald, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain James Lowther-Pinkerton were in attendance.

Marriages

Mr J. H. Gostly and Miss S. J. Orr
The marriage took place in Bibury, Gloucestershire on January 5, 1985 of Mr Jonathan Howard Gostly, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Gostly, of Fernhurst, West Sussex, and Miss Janet Stewart Orr, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Orr, of Bibury and Craven Arms, Shropshire.

Mr I. C. Starr and Miss E. K. Kirk
The marriage took place on January 12 at St Mary's Church, Rickmansworth, between Mr Ian Crichton Starr, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Starr, of Lower Belgrave Street, SW1, and Miss Sarah Elizabeth Kirk, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Kirk, of Temple Gardens, Moor Park. The Rev J. H. Richardson officiated.

The bride was attended by Rebecca Stephenson, Rory Perkins and James Roberts. Mr Jonathan Orr was best man.
A reception was held at Moor Park Golf Club and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Birthdays today

Air Marshal Sir Alfred Ball, 64; Dr David Bellamy, 62; Lord Bowden, 75; Mr Raymond Briggs, 51; Mr Arnold Cantwell Smith, CH, 81; Sir Cary Grant, 81; Sir William Harding, 58; Sir James Henderson, 84; Mr David Howell, MP, 49; Mr Edward James, 68; Mrs Jennifer Jenkins, 64; Mr Danny Kaye, 72; Sir Godfrey Le Quessne, QC, 61; Air Marshal Sir Leslie May, 68; Sir Peter Preston, 63; Lord Seabrook, 76; Sir Michael Stewart, 74; Sir Nigel Strutt, 69; Sir Walter Verco, 78; Sir Clive Whitmore, 50.

Latin Mass Society

The Latin Mass Society for the Preservation of the Tridentine Rite wishes to thank Pope John Paul II for the solicitude and care he has shown to those of the faithful who remain attached to the Tridentine Rite of Mass, by permitting the use of the Missal Romanum of Pope John XXIII (1962), and affirms its loyalty to the Holy See and to the Holy Father. The Latin Mass Society is at 3 Cork Street, London W1X 1HA.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 17: The Prince of Wales, Patron of The Royal Opera, this morning visited Covent Garden to review plans for the development of The Royal Opera House.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 17: The Duke of Kent, a Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference (UK Fund), this morning attended a Meeting of the Trustees which was held at 18, Welbeck Way, London W1.

Princess Alexandra will be present at a theatrical gala to be held at the Aldwych Theatre in aid of the Joyce Grenfell Centre at Clarendon Park Court School, Esher, on January 20. This engagement was to have been undertaken by Princess Margaret. Princess Alexandra, patron, will visit the National Heart Hospital, Westminster, on January 21, on January 24.

A memorial service for Dr P. M. Williams will be held today at 2.30pm, at the New Road Baptist Church, Oxford.

A memorial service for Emeritus Professor Robert Whelan, Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University, will be held on Saturday, January 26, 1985, at 2.30pm, in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, St James Mount, Liverpool 1.

Dinners

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor entertained at dinner yesterday at the Mansion House members of the Court of Common Council, the Chairman of the Greater London Council, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Mayors of the Greater London boroughs, Aldermen, Sheriffs, High Officers of the Corporation of London and Ward Clerks of the City of London.

The speakers were: The Lord Mayor, the Chairman of the GLC, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Lord Mayor of London. Other guests included: Colonel Lord Maitland, Sir Charles Trenchard, the Vice-Chancellor of the City of London, the Chairman of the Greater London Council, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Mayors of the Greater London boroughs, Aldermen, Sheriffs, High Officers of the Corporation of London and Ward Clerks of the City of London.

Scientific Instrument Makers' Company
The Master, Mr John Savage, and Wardens, Mr George Zahler and Mr R. J. F. Howard, received the guests at a reception given at Scientific Instrument Makers' Hall yesterday before a lively dinner at which the company's achievement award for 1984 was presented by the Deputy Master, Mr Maurice Gail, Mr Martin Webber, who received it on behalf of the Scientific Instrument Research Association.

The principal guest and speaker was Mr Tom Mayer who replied to the toast of the guests made by the Junior Warden. Other guests included directors of the Scientific Instrument Research Association, the Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University and the Master of the Laundresses' Company.

1912 Club
Miss Emma Nicholson, a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the 1912 Club held at the House of Commons yesterday at the invitation of Mr Roger E. Sims, MP, chairman of the club. Mr David Atkinson, MP, presided and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Daphne White.

Company of Chartered Accountants to England and Wales
The Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales held a dinner at the Grosvenor Hotel yesterday. The Master, Sir Kenneth Cork, presided assisted by the Junior Warden, Mr D. G. Richards. Mr Cecil Parkinson, MP, proposed the toast of the company to which the Master replied and the Junior Warden proposed the toast of the guests to which Mr Kingman Brewster replied.



Polo warm-up: Two members of the Army polo team braved the snow in Windsor Great Park yesterday in practice for their tour of India next month when they challenge the Indian Army for the Sultan Cup. Photographed (from left) are Major Sean Mahony, Miss Anita Khanna, of Air India, which is sponsoring the tour, Mr Francis da Garia, the airlines regional director, Colonel Roland Nottley, Miss Ameeta Ram Singh and Major Nigel Hadden-Paton (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Sale room

Price soars for Pontormo nude

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

There was fierce competition for Old Master drawings at Sotheby's in New York on Wednesday with a study of a standing male nude by Pontormo, reaching \$143,000 (£125,439) where only \$20,000 to \$30,000 had been estimated before the sale.

The financial rating of this important Mannerist artist has shot up since the Getty Museum spent a reputed \$300,000 on one of his drawings in Paris last year.

This was a less important drawing and Sotheby's had been cautious with their estimate.

The drawing had come to them

from a large European collection where it had been attributed to Caracci and the auctioneers relied on their own expertise in switching the attribution.

The bidders endorsed them, with the successful bid coming from Morton Morris, a London dealer.

Rumour, however, had undermined Sotheby's attribution of a fine grey wash drawing of St Philip, to Domenico Beccafumi and no one bid for it, leaving it to be bought in at \$20,000 (est \$25,000 to \$30,000).

Rumour is a particularly

potent force in the American market where collectors tend to rely on the expertise of a few scholars.

Stories that a sheet of studies of a Negro head which had been attributed to Laocret was in fact by Watteau, the greater master, sent the price soaring to \$37,400 (est \$5,000 to \$6,000) or \$32,897. It was bought by Colnaghi (USA).

Most of the drawings had been sent from Europe, for sale and they totalled £1,010,576 with only 11 per cent unsold. The Italian drawings in particular, were selling at much higher prices than last year.

Forthcoming marriages

Lord O'Hagan and Mrs M. C. R. Parsons

The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of the late Hon Anthony Strachey and of Lady Mary Gore, and Mrs Mary Parsons, daughter of the Rev L. and Mrs Rose Francis.

Mr M. P. Archer and Miss J. E. Shepherd
The engagement is announced between Michael Paul, son of Mr and Mrs M. F. Archer, of Edwalton, Nottingham, and Jane Elizabeth, daughter of the late Mr R. E. Shepherd and Mrs Anne Shepherd, of Amberley, Gloucestershire.

Mr P. J. Carroll and Miss N. M. Hodgson
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Carroll, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Hodgson, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr E. W. Chaillet and Miss D. J. Robertson
The engagement is announced between Edward William, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Chaillet, of Maryland, United States, and Diana Jean, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Robertson, of Westfield-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr T. W. G. Dennis and Miss M. A. K. Burgess
The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of Mr and Mrs C. M. Dennis, of The Old Rectory, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, and Annabelle, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Y. Burgess, of Skippers, Edeburgh, Kent.

Mr K. J. Doyle and Miss D. de la Bedoyere
The engagement is announced between Kieran John, son of Mr and Mrs K. P. Doyle, of Wimbledon, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. de la Bedoyere, of Edge Hill, Wimbledon.

Mr D. C. Eaton and Miss A. M. Ray
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. C. Eaton, of Esher, Surrey, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. R. Eaton, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr A. Jeffery and Miss S. J. Kendrick
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs G. H. Jeffery, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Kendrick, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R. J. Rineberg and Miss E. L. Glick
The engagement is announced between Richard Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs R. J. Rineberg, of London, and Emma Louise, daughter of Dr and Mrs E. N. Glick, of Southgate, London.

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Mr P. Falzon Sant Manduca and Miss T. T. Eggert

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr Victor Falzon Sant Manduca and the late Mrs E. Falzon Sant Manduca, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Teresa, only daughter of Captain Walter H. Eggert, of Portlough, Norfolk, and Mrs Kristyna Ethel Eggen, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr A. M. Fife and Miss N. L. Savill
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Major and Mrs William Fife, of Longton Hall, North Yorkshire, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr Richard Savill, of St. Martins, Guernsey, and Mrs Lindsay Wallace, of Earlsdale House, Shropshire.

Dr N. Goodrick-Clarke and Miss C. R. Badham
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr David Goodrick-Clarke and the late Mrs Phyllis Goodrick-Clarke, of Sturminster Newton, Dorset, and Clare Radene, younger daughter of Mrs Effie Badham and the late Rev Leslie Badham, of Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr D. M. Hymer and Miss P. C. A. Donegan
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of the Rev R. and Mrs Hymer, of Denton, Manchester, and Penelope, younger daughter of the late Commander P. Donegan, RN, and of Mrs P. Donegan, of Dartmouth, Devon.

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Mr R. M. Johnson and Miss S. S. Knowles

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs A. M. Johnson, of Hasby, York, and Miss S. S. Knowles, of Dorchester, Dorset.

Mr C. S. Rubin and Miss J. A. Purdy
The engagement is announced between Stephen Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Rubin, of Epsom, Hertfordshire, and Jayne, daughter of Mr Anthony Purdy, of Oxford, and Mrs Anne Hough, of London.

Dr K. D. Scholey and Dr E. S. Potter
The engagement is announced between Keith, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. H. A. Scholey, of Hoog Kong, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs K. A. S. Potter, of Kingston St Mary, Somerset.

Mr D. R. Spaulding and Miss C. R. Kennedy
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs A. R. Spaulding, of Urmston, Manchester, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Kennedy, of Flixton, Manchester.

Mr M. Taylor and Miss R. Northcote
The engagement is announced between Mark Taylor, of Latham Mews, Kensington, and Rosemary Northcote, of Arley, Bedfordshire.

Mr D. C. Theobald and Miss C. R. Campbell
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs M. W. Theobald, of Camberley, Surrey, and Camilla, only daughter of Mr Ian Campbell, QC, and Mrs Campbell, of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Mr A. D. J. Warby and Miss A. Kenrick
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs A. D. J. Warby, of Almondsbury, Bristol, and Anna, daughter of the Rev Bruce Kenrick, of Iona, Argyll, and Mrs Isabel Kenrick, of Kensington, London.

Mr P. J. D. Woodroffe and Miss A. L. Huelin
The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of Mr and Mrs P. J. D. Woodroffe, of Kensington, W8, and of Mrs Philippa Woodroffe, of Faulkbourne, Essex, and Lucy, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs David Huelin, of Oxford.

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR W. I. CARD Application of computers to medicine

Professor W. I. Card, Professor of Medicine in Relation to Mathematics and Computing in Glasgow University from 1966 to 1974, died on January 12 at the age of 76.

Wilfrid Ingram Card was born on April 13, 1908. He was educated at Tonbridge School and St Thomas's Hospital, qualifying in 1931, and proceeding to his MD in 1933.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1944, the Edinburgh College in 1953 and the Glasgow College in 1957.

Between qualifying and the outbreak of war in 1939 he was at St Thomas's Hospital where he developed a special interest in gastroenterology and was one of the early pioneers in the use of the gastroscope, a somewhat wearing procedure for both examiner and examinee.

Soon after the end of the war, much of which he spent in India, he moved from St Thomas's Hospital to Edinburgh, where he was one of several bright young men whom Sir Stanley Davidson brought to Edinburgh to strengthen the Department of Medicine.

Here Card became physician to the gastro-intestinal unit at the Western General Hospital, which he founded and developed into a department with an international reputation. At the same time he was a Reader in Medicine in the University. He contributed the chapter "Diseases of the Digestive System" to Sir Stanley Davidson's best-seller, *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*.

The mathematical approach to medicine, particularly in diagnosis, had always interested Card, and he gradually switched over to this development of medicine. As one of its pioneers he was in due course invited to occupy the Chair of Mathematics and Relation to Medicine and Computing which, with typical foresight, Glasgow University had established.

It was fortunate that clinicians such as he took this intelligent interest in a development which many feared might dehumanize the practice of medicine. Card, however, had no fears about this. As he himself commented in a lecture to the Royal College of Physicians in 1974: "Some readers may wonder if the kind of approach I have outlined would not destroy a lot of what they value in medicine. In my experience it does exactly the opposite: it enhances it."

A tall, slim, handsome figure he sometimes found it difficult to stoop, metaphorically as well as physically, to those who could not rise to his heights. Though he always treated his patients with respect and kindness, one could not help feeling that he was more at home with his computers and mathematics, evolving means whereby these could be harnessed to the service of medicine. It was a job that had to be done, and Wilfrid Card did it well.

VASSILIE TRUNOFF

Vassilie Trunoff, the Australian dancer and ballet master who spent much of his career with London Festival Ballet, died on January 11. He was 55 and had been ill with cancer.

Born in Melbourne, of Russian parents, on September 14, 1929, Trunoff studied dancing with Edouard Borovansky and Helene Kraavov, both of them former members of the Ballet de Basil's Ballet Russe. He joined Borovansky's Australian Ballet in 1943, becoming a soloist two years later, when he was 16.

During the 1948 Australian tour of Ballet Rambert, Trunoff was recruited to fill a vacancy caused by the return of another dancer to England, but (reversing the usual ballet practice of the time) Marie Rambert made him adopt an English stage name, Basil Trunoff, in place of his real Russian name.

In 1949-50, Trunoff played Judd in an Australian production of *Oklaoma*, before coming to England to join the newly formed Festival Ballet under Anton Dolin, where he quickly made his mark as a robust character dancer.

COL G. M. WARRACK

Colonel Graeme Matthew Warrack, CBE, DSO, who died on January 13 at the age of 71, played a distinguished role at the battle of Arnhem in 1944, when he was Assistant Director of Medical Services, and later became known for his book *Travel by Dark* (1963), in which he described his escape from captivity.

He recounted the pressures that built up as the airborne troops found themselves overwhelmed and how, after he, his staff and the wounded had been taken prisoner he managed to escape by hiding himself between the double walls of his room. He succeeded in reaching safety through the efforts of the Dutch Resistance, to whom he paid warm tribute.

The book formed the basis of a BBC television film, *Arnhem*.

MR E. F. BIGLAND

A correspondent writes: Ernest Bigland was throughout his life an untiring supporter of rowing in Chester. Though never weighing above 11 stones, he rowed with his brother, Tom, in the final of the Silver Goblets at Henley Regatta in 1933, having beaten Britain's Olympic gold medal pair of the previous year, Lewis Clive and Jumbo Edwards.

In 1934 the Biglands again reached the Goblets final, and helped Royal Chester Rowing Club to the final of the Wyfold Cup. They tried the double again unsuccessfully in 1935, and in 1938 they attempted three events, the Thames Cup, Wyfold Cup and Goblets, reaching the finals of the last two.

In 1975 Bigland was instrumental in introducing the Amateur Rowing Association to the Guardian Royal Exchange, who sponsored Great Britain's first World Championship rowing event at Nottingham, when Bigland served on the Championship Committee.

So successful was this venture that Guardian Royal Exchange subsequently sponsored the 1979 World Championships in New Zealand.

Corrections

The Rev Dr Norman Goodall, whose obituary was published on January 3, was a secretary of the International Missionary Council from 1944 to 1955, not 1944-45. Also, he had two sons and a daughter, not just one son.

In the obituary of Mr Ryokichi Minobe published on January 8 it should have been said that Minobe's father, not he himself, was honoured by ultra-nationalists for his liberal interpretation of the Constitution.

Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is only one of the troubles that people bring to us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help - spiritual, emotional, social and practical. And we are there, ready to give all the help we can, in all parts of the world.

To give this help we depend entirely upon voluntary contributions. Please help us to continue the Anglican Church's ministry to seafarers by a legacy, or please send whatever you can to The Missions to Seamen, Freepost, London, EC4A 4EP.

The Missions to Seamen, St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4R 2RL.

Custodian Superintendence and Trustee Company SA
Interdenance House, 6 Ave J, P. Pescatore, Luxembourg
London Office: 144/146 New Bond Street, London W1

UNRESERVED AUCTION

Important: rare, some unique, superb rugs of Czarist Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia of the 19th and 20th centuries.
By order of the managers of a powerful source wishing to remain undisclosed.

On Sunday 20th January 1985 at 12.00 noon
PARK LANE HOTEL, PICCADILLY, LONDON W1

Inspection from 11.00 am

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Get away from the snow and ice to the welcoming South African sunshine. SAA will fly you there non-stop, overnight. And, right now, your pound will give you better value than ever before, in sunny South Africa.

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SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS
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Colour-conscious cabbage-root flies

By David Nicholson-Lord

The cabbage-root fly, that ancient enemy of gardeners, has a well-developed aesthetic sense. It apparently prefers green victim plants rather than red and with a matt as opposed to a shiny finish. Keen cultivators of brassicas, according to the National Vegetable Research Station, would do well to take note.

A research team from the station, which is based at Wellesbourne in Warwickshire, wanted to clarify the role of visual stimuli in deciding the female fly to land on a particular plant. Hence it carefully interspersed green and red cabbages such as Avon Coronet and Mammoth Rock with cardboard "mimics" coloured with oil paint.

The plants, and their cardboard look-alikes, were arranged in a grid inside a field cage. 70cm from their neighbours. Radishes and cauliflowers were used to help to activate the flies,

Derek Harris sees the start of a new era as professional engineers face the challenge of the Eighties

Growth of a materials society

A new force in professional engineering emerges today with the launch of the Institute of Metals, the result of a merger between the Institution of Metallurgists and The Metals Society.

It is the culmination of changes which go back 115 years and is likely to provoke more. From another engineering discipline one of the leading figures in the engineering profession said: "I believe the new Institute could, given time, be the fifth force in the profession. And it would be logical if it grew into a body covering all materials, no doubt involving a few more mergers on the way."

To be the fifth force means the Institute would win a place with the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

The Institute's new leaders are adamantly not pressing for further mergers but they do have in their sights not only metals but other materials which are proving the big technological growth areas. These include ceramics, polymers and adhesives. The only materials excluded under the Institute's Royal Charter, secured at the beginning of this month, are natural and synthetic fibres used in textiles.

The new technologies are a challenge to the Institute. So are fresh developments in the older metals technologies like advanced welding techniques employed in the fabrication of offshore structures. It has to forge closer links with industry if it is to help British companies stay in the vanguard of progress and so secure - and increase - jobs for the Institute's professional engineer members.

It means the Institute has to make sure the preparation of new generations of professional engineers is sufficiently thorough and widely based. Ensuring that professional engineers keep up to scratch throughout their careers is probably an even bigger educational challenge.

Professional engineers in the metals field are no strangers to challenge. In 1869 a group of ironmasters formed the Iron & Steel Institute when, spurred on by foreign competition, they realised the value of exchanging technical information and expertise. The old Institute of Metals followed in 1908, catering for non-ferrous metals.

Both bodies attracted so international membership. It was the Iron & Steel Institute which sponsored the foundation in 1945 of the Institution of Metallurgists. While the Iron & Steel Institute and the old Institute of Metals were learned societies the Institution of Metallurgists became the qualifying body in the field, laying down the criteria for membership by individuals.

The success of the Institution as a qualifying body led to a Royal Charter in 1975 and two years later it became the sixteenth corporation member of the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI). This took it to the top of the professional tree. It had the right to nominate its members for Chartered Engineer (C Eng) status. That right has continued with the formation of the Engineering Council, successor to the CEI.

The Institution of Metallurgists in its turn sponsored the formation of the Institute of Metallurgical Technicians to take care of academic and training standards of individual technicians. Last year the technician body came back under the direct wing of the Institution of Metallurgists.

'It was then that arts began to emerge as sciences'

In 1974 the Iron & Steel Institute had meanwhile merged with the old Institute of Metals to form the Metals Society. It was a response to change because as the theory of metals began to be better understood the distinction between ferrous and non-ferrous metals became blurred. Many processes in the two fields which had been something of an art started emerging as a science.

A hallmark of the Metals Society was its open structure. Non-engineers involved in the metals business could, and did, hold office. One president was a Dutchman.

This open structure was a strength in widening the value of the society to industry at large. But it presented a difficulty for a merger with the Institution of Metallurgists. In other engineering disciplines attempts to bring together a professional qualifying body and a learned society has usually meant the end of the open structure typical of the learned society.



In the heat of a steelworks, and right, Sir Hugh Ford, president of the Institute of Metals, in the Heavy Testing laboratory at Imperial College, London

The Institute of Metals believes it has solved this difficulty, according to its secretary, Sir Geoffrey Ford.

Sir Geoffrey, who was director and chief executive of the Metals Society for nearly four years, said: "We have a constitution which allows the appointment of a president who is not a professional engineer. We have taken great care on working out a constitution which gives equality of opportunity. But we have also ensured that the institute remains clearly in the hands of professional engineers."

He added: "This is the way bodies like ours have to go, serving the whole of the metals community and providing industry with what it needs."

Some past mergers in the professional engineering field have arisen largely through financial problems. No such

stringency lies behind the Institute merger, according to Sir Geoffrey.

The Institution of Metallurgists, with its more substantial membership, had a firm subscription base to its activities. But the Metals Society had the advantage of the substantial earnings from a computerized data base, Metals Information.

'One cannot any longer see metals in isolation'

operated jointly with the American Society of Metals and owned on a 50-50 basis. It is the world's largest data base.

The idea of forming the new Institute was first discussed near the turn of the decade. It led to the setting up in 1981 of a working party to tackle merger details. Sir Geoffrey said: "There was a growing recognition in a philosophical sense

that it was not very sensible to have separated the two types of activity, the professional qualifying body on one hand and learned society on the other."

He added: "The putting of the two together means a stronger body than simply the sum of the two parts." For the professional engineer it also means one subscription where the harder choice before was whether to invest in two.

There had been a tendency to opt only for the Institution because of its importance to them as a qualifying body.

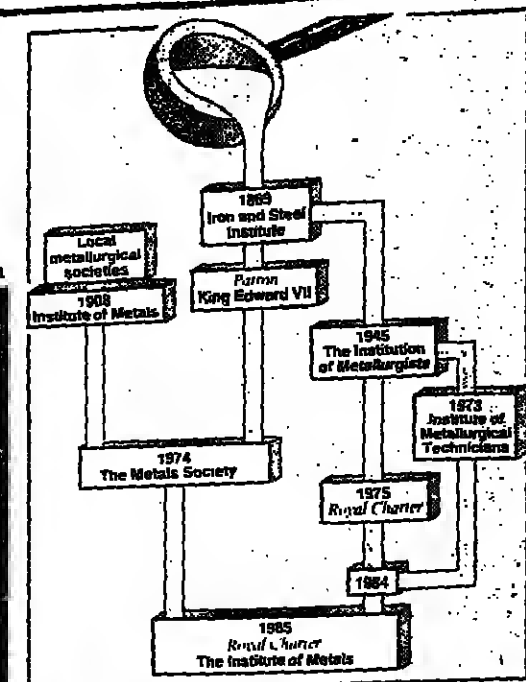
Sir Hugh Ford, the Institute's first president, said: "Fragmentation of the materials world has been something of a stumbling block in this country to the rapid development of the new techniques and technologies and the emergence of real professionals. We are trying with this merger particularly to meet the urgent need for

continuing education and learning for professional engineers and so serve industry which is dependent on them."

He added: "We now have a strong basis on which to go forward. We have to find a proper relationship based on co-operation with the various bodies in materials technology such as ceramics, plastics and rubber. One cannot any longer consider metals in isolation."

It meant collaboration with all those in the materials field from big institutions like the Mechanicals and Electricals to the more specialised smaller bodies like the Institute of Ceramics and the Plastics & Rubber Institute, said Sir Hugh.

An existing attempt at co-operation has been the Materials Forum which brings all the interested bodies together in regular meetings. It was Sir Hugh who was the key figure behind its founding.



Sir Hugh: brilliant Fellow

Sir Hugh Ford, first president of the new Institute of Metals, has had a brilliant career in engineering and engineering education. He is chairman of Sir Hugh Ford and Associates, the consulting engineers whose specialities include high-pressure engineering and work on offshore structures.

Early in his career, when he was a research and design engineer with ICI at Northwich, Cheshire, he was one of the four responsible for the erection of the first commercial polyethylene plant in Britain. In industry he was subsequently connected with a number of companies, including being technical director of the Paterson Engineering Group. He is now a director of RD Projects, specialists in microprocessor controls, robo-

tics and machine tools, and holds directorships in internal combustion engine research, welding, cryogenics and technological innovation investment. For many years he was chairman of the Admiralty Research Committee on steels for shipyard use. He has been an emeritus professor of mechanical engineering at Imperial College, of which he was Pro-Rector from 1978 to 1980 and is a senior research Fellow.

Sir Hugh is a past president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the old Institute of Metals and president of the Welding Institute.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, was a founding Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, the most senior professional engineering organization.

The Institute of Metals: A powerful new voice for those involved in Metals and Materials

The Metals Society and the Institution of Metallurgists have come together to form a new unified body - The Institute of Metals.

The combination of the traditions, the extensive services and considerable resources of these two long-established organisations will enable the newly-formed Institute better to serve the present and future needs of the metals and materials community.

With an initial membership of some 13,000 individuals, with direct links to all overseas metallurgical societies, and with members in some 70 countries the new Institute will be able to speak with a powerful voice.

From the beginning of the Industrial Revolution up to the present day, many of the most important technical and technological developments have resulted from skills perfected in Britain. The contribution made to this country's wealth and international standing over many years by those engaged, directly or indirectly, in the production, treatment

and use of ferrous and non-ferrous metals is well-known.

New methods and new engineering materials are emerging, and in a world whose natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce it is imperative that we learn how to exploit those raw materials which remain available to us. The breadth of membership of The Institute of Metals and its depth of expertise will enable it to play its part to the full in this crucial task.

One of the primary functions of the Institute will be the creation of channels for the exchange of information - at national and international level - on all aspects of metallurgical science and materials technology.

It will also serve the interests of its membership and the community by the establishment and maintenance of the highest standards of professional competence and will encourage the study of the science, technology and use of metals and related materials in all areas of engineering.

Under the membership structure, which has the approval of the Engineering Council, certain categories of membership are open only to fully qualified individuals. However, the Institute encourages everyone connected with the metals community, irrespective of professional qualifications, to participate fully in its affairs.

Scientific advance is bringing about the introduction of new industries and technologies and changing and developing traditional ones.

The Institute of Metals, representing a powerful combination of scientific, technical and human resources, can and will make a major contribution to progress in the metals and materials field.

Further information is available from
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LAUGOLITA

A new status to woo graduates

All other leading professional bodies in the field of the status of the professional engineer and how this is to be improved by positive action on the part of the Institute of Metals, one of the two secretaries of the Institute of Metals and responsible for the professional affairs division, said: "Mention engineering and too many people still think of somebody changing washers on taps or making spanners to nuts and bolts."

But he believes the situation is changing, with a greater awareness among students of at least the best known professional engineer grade, the Chartered Engineer. They are the ones who can add C.Eng. behind their names.

In the ranks of professional engineers there are three main layers. From the bottom up there are the engineering technicians (Eng. Tech.), the technicians (T. Eng.) and the chartered engineers.

With the Institute of Metals chartered engineers need an honours degree from a university whose engineering courses have been approved and accredited. The Institute of Metals carries out accreditations under the aegis of the Engineering Council which is anxious to keep standards high.

Appropriate academic and training standards are similarly set for the two technician grades, usually gained through polytechnics.

There is a fourth, much senior layer - the Fellows of an institution, at the top of the tree.

Mr Gibson said: "Youngsters are catching on to the chartered engineer. There is greater awareness at the school level of the relevance of engineering. But while it is getting better known it will obviously take time still to achieve the sort of perception that, say, the chartered accountant enjoys."

He believes there are special problems in the metals and materials area. Metallurgy is too often regarded with British Steel, he believes. While British Steel has been taking 15 to 20 per cent of metals graduates each year, and is still sponsoring many through university, the numbers have been reducing. The Institute will be pointing out other avenues that are open in addition to the steel route.

Another problem has been the number of good metallurgists coming on to the labour market, said Mr Gibson. They are mostly between 35 and 50 years old. He went on: "There are signs we have turned the corner on this. For anybody with a good track record the opportunities are there now."

This view is backed up by the increasing evidence that manufacturing industry production is on the upturn.

There are now more job prospects in the newer technologies involving non-metals. To cater for this the Institute is looking to more courses covering non-metal sectors.

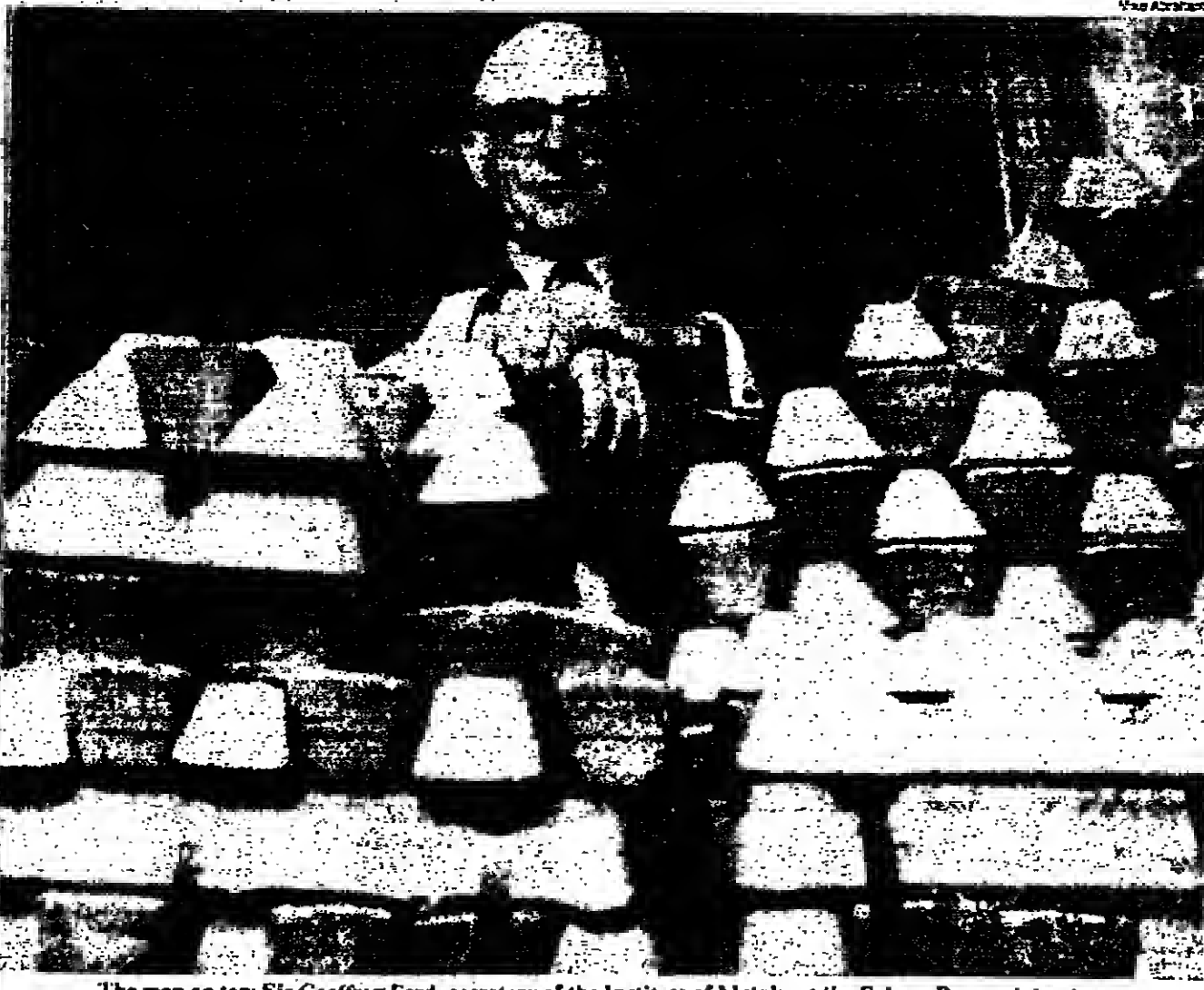
Sir Geoffrey Ford, secretary of the Institute of Metals, is backing a drive to attract more graduates. He said: "We should try to attract younger graduates. We can now offer a single body to provide young people with the training they want in professional qualifying activities and continuing career formation."

There are rather more than 1,300 undergraduates in the materials field in the United Kingdom at any one time and the Institute has about 1,000 of them enrolled as students.

There is a nominal student registration fee of £5 a year which buys the usual Institute membership advantages with reduced rates for instructional meetings and publications. Subscription rates for other Institute members range mostly from £22 a year to £50 (Fellows pay the most).

Membership of the Institute is now just over 13,000 but other affiliations bring the number of those involved with the Institute to around 14,000. There are probably fewer than 1,500 who have been members of both the Institution of Metallurgists and the Metals Society. To the Institute are coming around 10,500 from the Institution and some 2,500 from the Society.

Mr Gibson expects the number of chartered engineers within the Institute to rise by around 1,000 comparatively quickly. It is likely that some of the old Metals Society members will qualify for chartered status. It would then mean the Institute's chartered membership would rise to about 7,500, possibly putting the Institute ahead then of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.



The man on top: Sir Geoffrey Ford, secretary of the Institute of Metals, at the Fulmer Research Institute.

The big drive for honours

There has been mounting concern in Britain that educational and training standards for professional engineers has been lagging behind those of its chief international competitors like West Germany, France and Japan.

The Engineering Council has now put its weight behind bringing all the engineering disciplines up to higher standards such as the honours degree level for chartered engineers.

In the metals and materials sector the honours degree has long been demanded. That means there is a three year academic course. But an additional two years of approved training is also called for.

Mr Bryan Gibson, deputy secretary of the Institute of Metals, said: "Essentially it is a five year course. The French tend to understate our qualifications when they say that we

have only a three year course in Britain whereas abroad the engineer has a four year course."

He added: "With a reasonable A level basis - we have preference for a chemistry A level as well as physics and mathematics - the three year honours degree course with the right materials structure seems the right way, with a design project included."

But so much is now being packed into three year courses that a borderline is near where a four year course might seem the only option, said Mr Gibson.

He added: "One problem is that moving towards four years means putting up industry's cost at a time when perhaps that is not what industry wants." But the Institute is particularly anxious that academic courses remain relevant to the needs of the day. Discussions at regional level have been started

with local employers at which heads of universities and polytechnics are present. Mr Gibson said: "We are asking the industrialists informally whether the content of courses is right and whether graduate standards are right for them."

The Engineering Council is looking to more being done for technician engineers and engineering technicians as part of the drive to improve standards. This is a tricky issue because in some disciplines there are separate technician bodies while in others a single institution covers all the grades.

The Institute believes the integrated approach makes it easier to develop bridges so that those at technician level can more easily move on to chartered status. But it has had the problem that its by-laws forbid a council vote other than to corporate members. The technicians are not corporate

members. Yet the Engineering Council clearly wants technicians to have a direct vote.

The Institute approach adopted from the Institution of Metallurgists is to give the technicians a voice on the main council by co-opting on to it the chairman and vice-chairman of the technicians' own key liaison committee. Additionally three corporate members are elected to the council by the non-corporate members.

Sir Hugh Ford, the Institute's president, commented: "We have to resolve the whole relationship between chartered engineers, technician engineers and engineering technicians. We are very keen that technicians should be within the main scope because of the great reliance of chartered metallurgists and materials engineers on their supporting staff of technicians."

Sir Geoffrey's RAF record

Sir Geoffrey Ford, secretary of the Institute of Metals, is not related to the institute president. It is coincidence they are both Fords and Knights. Sir Geoffrey had a long career in the Royal Air Force of which in 1978 he became Chief Engineer. But he has for many years been active in the affairs of the engineering profession, particularly within the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) and the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI).

He retired from the RAF in 1981 after 39 years' service, and became that year director and

chief executive of The Metals Society.

In the RAF he went from pilot officer to Air Marshal. For three years in the early 1970s he was chief engineer of RAF Strike Command. He was later Director General of Engineering and Supply Management at the Ministry of Defence (Air).

A chartered engineer, he is a Fellow of the IEE. He has served at the IEE on its council, public affairs board and executive board. He was also involved in committee work at the CEI before that body was superseded by the Engineering Council.

How the council lines up

The Engineering Council is composed of 51 professional bodies, broken into five groups. The new institute is in group four.

Group One
Institution of Mechanical Engineers
Institution of Production Engineers
Bureau of Engineering Surveyors
Institute of Engineers and Technicians
Institution of Engineering Designers
Institution of Mechanical and General Technicians Engineers
Institution of Technical Engineers in Mechanical Engineering

Group Two
Institution of Civil Engineers
Institution of Structural Engineers
Association of Water Officers
Chartered Institution of Building Services
Highway and Traffic Technicians Association
Institution of Hospital Engineering
Institution of Plumbing
Institution of Agricultural Engineers
Institution of Highways and Transportation
Institution of Public Health Engineers
Institution of Works and Highways Management
Society of Civil Engineering Technicians

Group Three
Institution of Electrical Engineers
Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers
Biological Engineering Society
Institution of Chemical and Electronics Incorporated Engineers
Institution of Public Lighting Engineers
Institution of Railway Signal Engineers
Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians

Group Four
Institution of Chemical Engineers
Institution of Energy
Institution of Gas Engineers
Institution of Mining Engineers
Institution of Mining and Metallurgy
British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing
Institute of Measurement and Control

Institute of Metals
Institute of Quality Assurance
Institute of Sheet Metal Engineering
Institution of Mining Electrical and Mining Mechanical Engineers
Institution of Nuclear Engineers
Institution of Plant Engineers
Minerals Engineering Society
Society of X-Ray Technology
Welding Institute

Group Five
Royal Aeronautical Society
Institute of Marine Engineers
Royal Institution of Naval Architects
Institute of Automotive Engineer Assessors
Institute of Motor Industry
Institute of Road Transport Engineers
Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland
North East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders
Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers and Technologists

SPONSORSHIPS FOR 1985 IN METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING

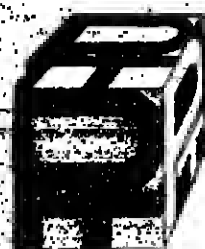
Twelve companies are offering attractive sponsorships on the Metallurgical Engineering Programme at the University of Sheffield. The course lasts for four years and leads to a Masters Degree. Each year comprises 30 weeks at University and 15 weeks group and personal industrial training.

Sponsoring companies pay an annual bursary starting at £500 and increasing to £800 plus payment for industrial training ranging from £55 to £100 per week. The programme is a broadly based course which integrates Metallurgy, Mechanical, Electrical and Control Engineering with Business Studies. A high proportion of teaching is carried out in the sponsoring companies.

Entry requirements are three good 'A' levels in Maths, Physics and one other subject.

For further details please contact: Professor G. A. Argent, Department of Metallurgy, University of Sheffield, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 5JD. Tel: (0742) 78555.

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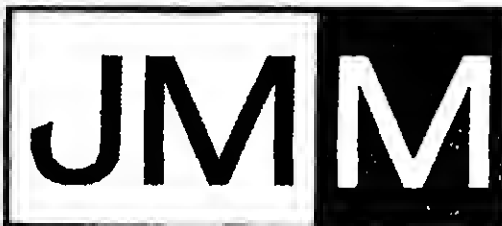
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Electrolytic tinning line for Zorka, Yugoslavia.

Plate mill complex for SICARTSA, Mexico.

Gold processing facility for Homestake Mining, California.

Powder metallurgy plant for Metallurgimport, U.S.S.R.

Copper flash smelter at Chuquibambilla, Chile.

Davy McKee

TAKING METALS TECHNOLOGY TO THE WORLD

Why steel has the edge in the age of plastics

There have been so many new developments in the metal and materials field that it is easy to believe that traditional materials like steel will be overtaken rapidly.

Aluminium and plastics could, it might be argued, make lighter and fuel-efficient cars, and carbon fibre reinforced polymers might do the same for aircraft. Ceramics could be used to make engines more efficient. And why not stick things together with industrial adhesives instead of welding them?

This line of thought finds little favour with Dr Eric Duckworth, managing director of the Fulmer Research Institute at Stoke Poges in Berkshire. Fulmer was founded in 1946 as an independent research organization specialising in materials and metals and is now owned by the Institute of Physics. It is a leader in the field.

Steel is by far the metal most used despite the competition from aluminium and plastics, and in construction from cement. Until the recession's impact on steel production its growth had been relatively undisturbed by a rather steeper growth pattern in aluminium.

Plastics growth has been the most spectacular but now there are question marks over how long this will go on and there are signs of a levelling off.

Dr Duckworth's main argument is that new materials best succeed in fresh and expanding markets where the investment needed to equip for their use is the most appealing. In a mature industry a switch to new materials and techniques can mean massive spending on re-equipment.

He believes steel will remain a major constructional metal for buildings, bridges and tunnels. He said: "Steel is produced in such large quantities and it is so cheap comparatively."

Steel is also fighting back against competitors like aluminium and plastics by achieving its own technological advances. Stronger and much lighter steel products are being produced mainly by adding small amounts of elements like niobium and vanadium to produce high-strength low alloy steels, which are about half as strong again as ordinary mild steel.

In the vehicle industry lightness is crucial because of the need to cut fuel

consumption costs. But in the car industry, a mature one, it would mean enormous investment to switch to aluminium or plastic body shells for large volume production, argues Dr Duckworth. He said: "Aluminium is ten times the price of steel and one third the density. That still leaves a volume price factor of three against aluminium which is difficult to overcome. To replace the steel body shell aluminium or plastics would have to produce a shell that is no more expensive than steel. It is still roughly the same story in engines."

The rust problem with steel is being tackled by zinc coating and other methods.

Body shells using the steel alternatives are only likely to appear on low-volume cars, he believes. He also pointed out that when plastics started to replace zinc-based diecast parts, such as carburettor housings, the diecasters successfully fought back with much thinner walled castings. He added: "Today's cast iron cylinder blocks would be unrecognisable by the cast iron founders of 50 years ago. The technology has advanced to make a much thinner and lighter casting."

Aluminium has made great impact in the expanding aircraft market where its lightness was also more crucial. A more recent example of its success is in the double glazing market. But in new houses most of the basic windows fitted are still either in steel or wood because that market is a mature traditional one, Dr Duckworth said.

The canolox industry presents a similar picture, he argued. Aluminium and plastics have made massive inroads in the fast-expanding beverages sector. It is the opposite in food canning, a relatively mature market. Again technology advance in the traditional material has helped, with low-tin steels being developed and thinner steel lightening the cans.

The rapid expansion of supermarkets, with their special packing needs, was another area where both aluminium and plastic wrappings were able to score.

The argument that mature markets tend to stay with traditional materials is not necessarily all-embracing. Toothpaste tubes were once made of lead tin alloy but now plastics rule.



Your life is even safer in the surgeon's hands

A safer surgeon's glove is in full production by LRC Products in Britain thanks to one of the many current advances in materials technology which are bringing changes to a wide range of industries from electronics to welding.

LRC called in the Yarsley Technical Centre, which is part of Fulmer Research Institute, the materials and metals research centre owned by the Institute of Physics. Yarsley specialises in polymers, which includes rubber, and has developed expertise in thin films, membranes, adhesives and coatings.

The basis of the work were polymeric gels called hydrogels. Their permeability to small molecules like water makes them a useful biomaterial acceptable in contact with the human body. Yarsley had previously been involved in using them to develop contact lenses. Another application had been for non-drag anti-fouling paint for ships. The latest surgeon's rubber gloves are now coated inside with the hydrogels. This eliminates the need for sterilisation when a surgeon changes his gloves during an operation and has been known to cause some post-operative problems.

Ceramic engine?

Ceramics are used widely in electronics, including the building of integrated circuit panels. Ceramics conduct heat quickly and make good cutting tools. Even in some of the older applications to ceramics, like bricks, there have been technological changes to meet the fresh demands of heavy industries like steel.

A Japanese-developed system of super-micronization of ceramics is expected to extend their uses. They are making possible new high efficiency gas turbine engines, and the development of ceramic engines for cars is being explored. Many electronics applications are foreseen, with magnetic tapes and even artificial bones.

Better joints

Industrial structural adhesives are rapidly being taken up, particularly in the growth sectors of consumer goods, because of the potential of adhesive bonding as a fast, cheap method of assembly which lends itself to automation. They could be a growing alternative to methods like riveting, welding and brazing.

The technique is used in aircraft where the lighter joint is a big factor. But surfaces have to be ultra-clean, which means creating special conditions in factories. Even in car factories the use of robots makes it easier to create such conditions and adhesives have been used to supplement spot welding, allowing a reduction in the number of spot welds although not normally their entire elimination.

Danger signals

Sensors, or electronics indicators, are rapidly replacing mechanical devices and are also

making possible monitoring of a wide range of conditions in the most hostile chemical environments. Recent research includes the detection and extraction of water from fuel, the assessment of new fuels, and the identification of pollutants through infra-red absorption. A warning of dangerous concentrations of gas can be given by an infra-red beam tuned to one wavelength.

Shaping up

A new trend is towards producing components by shape forming. In powder technology metallic or ceramic powders are subjected to temperature and pressure to produce a component which need little or no subsequent machining, which is particularly important with ceramics which are difficult and expensive to machine.

Better cash flow

There is also the latest development in casting technology where metal is cast not in traditional liquid form but at an intermediate, thixotropic stage between liquid and solid. An alternative is metal injection, where there is a flow into a mould rather like a polymer. Just as plastics used injection moulding to cut costs, metals could benefit in the same way.

Stronger welds

At one time welds were weaker than the structures welded. Now ways have been found to control the welding process which, together with a right blend of alloys, produces in most cases a weld that is stronger than the main structure. It has made it possible to weld for extreme severe conditions such as the met-by offshore platforms in the North Sea or in processing conditions like those found in nuclear power stations.

We are not in the takeover business, says president

The professional engineering bodies connected with the Engineering Council will soon be down to 30 and still presenting a confusing kaleidoscope of interests. A further turn of that kaleidoscope will follow the emergence of the Institute of Metals.

There is already speculation that the strength of the new body will make it a likely catalyst in mergers but Sir Hugh Ford, first president of the Institute of Metals, said: "Mergers might broadly make a lot of sense but I do not see any in the immediate future in and around our sector. The new

Institute is certainly not in the takeover business."

Sir Hugh's main aim is to get the Institute working cohesively. There are a number of broad objectives. One is to become more relevant to the industries in which its professional members are active. That could mean organizational changes to make it effective.

He also wants to develop the standards of excellence and professionalism of Institute members. It particularly means helping engineers to improve standards throughout a career.

Sir Hugh added: "Another objective will be to develop the

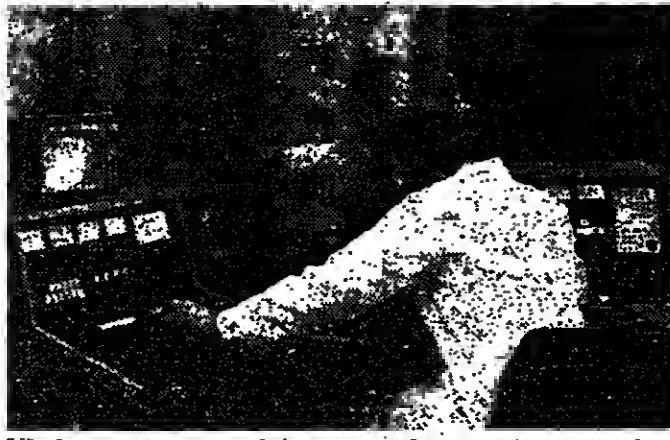
Institute in its relations with the other big institutions concerned with materials and materials engineering, particularly the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers."

The Institute would also be seeking collaboration with bodies in related materials fields, particularly the Institution of Ceramics, the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy and the Plastics & Rubber Institute.

A key relationship will be with the Institution of Chemical Engineers, which has emerged as one of the more powerful influences in the profession.

At one time it was the grouping known as the Three Presidents which wielded the greatest influence. These were the presidents of the three most senior and powerful bodies - the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. The grouping became the Four Presidents as the Chemicals grew in influence.

The civil, mechanical and electrical are the key bodies in each of three of the five groupings into which the currently 51 professional bodies have been separated. The fourth cluster, and the largest with 16 members, covers process engineering - with the Chemicals the



Vital development work is done at electron microscopes like this as rapid developments in materials technology create new opportunities for metallurgists and metals scientists

key body - and materials in which the Institute of Metals will now be pre-eminent.

Until the Institute of Metals merger it was the Institution of Metallurgists which was the senior chartered body on the materials side. The Metals Society, now merged with the Metallurgists to create the Institute of Metals, was not in the cluster because it functioned as a learned society.

The 31 professional bodies operating with the Engineering Council are expected to be reduced to 30 by the projected

merger between the Institution of Production Engineers and the Mechanicals.

The new Institute and the Institution of Chemical Engineers will not be dissimilar in membership size. Chemicals have 16,000 members, about 2,000 more than the new Institute. Some materials engineers have belonged to both the Metallurgists and the Metals Society and now pay only one subscription. The Chemicals membership is up by a third over six years as chemicals have burgeoned as a sector.

The decline of manufacturing industry and other sectors using metals has led to a decline in job opportunities for metals scientists and metallurgists. But prospects could now be opening up again because of rapid developments in materials technology, particularly in the non-metal areas like polymers and ceramics. The Institute certainly expects its chartered membership to grow.

Among the 15 chartered institutions the Chemicals and the Metallurgists - senior organisations among professional engineering bodies - have had fewest members belonging to more than one professional organization.

Both the Chemicals and the Metallurgists have demanded an honours degree and have had largely similar requirements for academic courses leading to chartered status for the individ-

ual engineer. The Chemicals look to four consecutive years of training and experience but the Metallurgists have accepted training and experience as separate stages.

Despite group four being composed of such a variety of bodies it has proved a successful arrangement, according to Mr Bryan Gibson, the Metallurgists' secretary who has become one of two deputy secretaries in the Institute of Metals. He said: "The relationship with the Chemicals has never been better. We have been exchanging views regularly, both publicly and behind the scenes. In the two years of the group system with the Engineering Council there has been no major disagreement."

Sir Geoffrey Ford, the new Institute's secretary, points out that the hallmark of group four is its strong interdisciplinary links which do not necessarily apply to other areas. "Because in group four we have had to work by consent, arguing our cases. It has been working extremely well. It has meant the group has come up with different ideas from the other main groups. Provided the group continues to work well it has the potential to be a very powerful group, not so much in size but in its overall influence."

A meeting of minds on key issues between the Chemicals and the new Institute will be crucial, Sir Geoffrey admitted. "If ever we came to a point of fundamental difference that we could not resolve between ourselves and the Chemicals then group four would be in a stalemate condition."

What remains to be seen is how far the Chemicals and the new Institute will join hands to give group four something like the muscle of the Big Three.

The Chemicals and the Metallurgists have shared chairmanship of meetings of group four on a consecutive basis and this looks like continuing.

The other question is whether the Institute will earn a place in the top councils of the profession, turning the Four Presidents into the Five. It could be only a matter of time.

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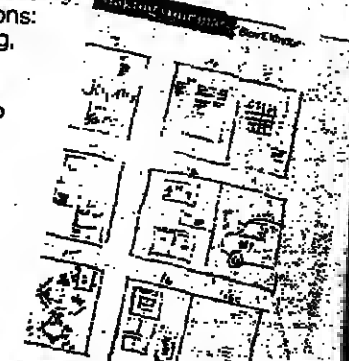
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AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR METALS

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Embarrassing incentive for Dunlop chairman

On paper, Sir Michael Edwards has gained £3.5 million before income tax through the revaluation of Dunlop shares at 31p yesterday against the 14p at which his 20.9 million share options were announced earlier in the week. All sorts of arguments can be advanced to justify his good fortune.

The fact remains that British managers will surely live to regret Sir Michael's instant windfall unless this favourable deal for Dunlop's new chairman and the two executive directors he brought with him from ICL is adjusted before the Dunlop reconstruction proposals are offered for shareholders approval next month.

Years of reasoning, evangelising and persuasion have gone into changed attitudes towards paying managers. It is now generally recognized that the good ones should be properly rewarded for the effort, strain and career risks they take, particularly in pulling round an important company like Dunlop which has suffered from years of bad management and City neglect.

Moreover, it has now become acceptable that managers should be given both the incentive and the opportunity to build up capital like a self-employed owner through share options, which bring rich rewards if they make profits for shareholders. Schemes on a more modest scale than Sir Michael's have now been given favourable tax treatment: gains are for example treated as capital rather than income.

It is one thing to give incentives for success. It is pushing the case when managers like Sir Michael receive such generous capital options - Sir Michael and his colleagues will also take part in an Inland Revenue approved scheme - as well as substantial salaries (£152,000 a year for Sir Michael and protection when things do not turn out as intended. The former Dunlop directors received £874,000 for instance and Sir Michael had an excellent handshake for a few months' work before the takeover of his former company ICL. To give instant gains before the job is begun is going too far.

It would be quite wrong to pillory Sir Michael personally. Several others among the new breed of "star managers", able to dictate their own terms, have proved their powers of negotiation in their own remuneration packages. Sir Michael's gain is at the expense of the banks who are rescuing Dunlop rather than small shareholders, who also have a right to subscribe for shares at 14p (apart from US holders who should be selling as fast as they can). Moreover, it is an unforeseen accident and to some extent an illusion. A Dunlop share with the right to buy at 14p is worth more than the same share will be once the capital reconstruction has gone through. The high opening price was not anticipated.

None the less, overnight riches, however illusory, make a bad precedent. It would, in the long run, be better for the reputation of Sir Michael, his colleagues and managers in general if the option price was adjusted nearer Dunlop's suspension price of 25p or the price of Dunlop shares after the rights issues have gone through.

One way to lift PSBR gloom

Graduates of the Machiavellian school of public finance would say that December's public borrowing figures fitted the Government's purpose almost too neatly. By the old technique of spreading excessive gloom in advance, the Treasury

managed to ensure that the markets greeted almost with relief the news that total public borrowing in the first nine months of 1984-85 had exceeded £10 billion.

The Chancellor's original target for the financial year was £7.4 billion, subsequently revised upwards to £8.2 billion to allow for the effects of the coal strike. Borrowing was heavily concentrated in the summer and autumn months; by now revenue should have begun to exceed expenditure, as the change in VAT on imports bore fruit and the loot from British Telecom began rolling in. Instead, the public sector needed to borrow £573 million in December.

Even so, City analysts were finding it hard yesterday to make the numbers for the full year add up to much more than £9 billion, which is below the gloom level; and the markets took the figures in their stride. One particular point of optimism was that only about £500 million of the VAT windfall had come in within the month, leaving another £700 million to come.

The figures also lend verisimilitude to the Chancellor's story earlier in the week that he was raising interest rates not specifically to defend the pound, but because of signs of grief in the domestic monetary indicators. And if gloom on public borrowing can be fed into the markets now, a turn-round over the next couple of months might smooth the Chancellor's fiscal and monetary paths in the run-up to the Budget.

But perhaps the real explanation of the markets' docility was their preoccupation with events in Washington. In advance, the five governments concerned in these supposedly informal talks between finance ministers did their best to damp down expectations of concerted intervention in the foreign exchange markets (even though this would be quite in line with undertakings given at successive summits to intervene when markets prove "disorderly").

The Reagan Administration came under heavy fire from its hard pressed allies, seemingly with little result. But whatever the participants do or do not say on the perimeters of this G5 meeting, it is the actions of their central banks tomorrow and Monday that market operators will be studying most closely.

Welcome visibility for Abbey Life

The proposed flotation of fast growing Abbey Life would do the United Kingdom's second largest linked life company no harm. It has lived too long in the shadow of Hambro Life Assurance, the largest of its kind in the United Kingdom: a stock market quotation would make it more visible, just as Hambro's visibility is disappearing into the corporate well of BAT Industries.

Results for 1984 out yesterday show Abbey has more than held its own. In line with the industry it has seen very good growth in self-employed pensions.

If the feasibility study being carried out by S G Warburg and Ernst and Whinney comes down in favour of a float, the shares could be offered to the public within a matter of weeks. The price of £664 million paid by BATs for Hambro Life is a guide to life companies' worth. Abbey is approximately two-thirds the size of Hambro Life in most areas of business. Its shares would not carry the premium rating that Mark Weinberg's reputation gave to Hambro Life, so a market capitalization of around £400 million is a fair estimate.

Gulf states step up pressure on Opec to hold \$29 oil price

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The oil ministers of the seven Gulf members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are to meet in Riyadh this weekend to discuss oil prices prior to the full 13-strong ministerial meeting of Opec in Geneva on January 28.

The meeting which will be chaired by the Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, will concentrate on the Opec differential price structure.

Pressure on Opec to maintain its \$29 a barrel marker price by the Gulf states is mounting to counteract pressure for a price reduction from the US, Japan and Nigeria has broken ranks and is selling its crude at \$28 as well as being rumoured by oil traders to be exceeding its 1.3 million barrels a day Opec quota by 300,000 barrels.

The Iraqi oil minister, Qasim Taki Al-Oraibi, who will attend the weekend meeting, said yesterday: "The best way for Opec to regain control over the oil market is for member countries to adhere sincerely to

the last conference decisions on prices and production and to resist consumer pressure".

Iran, another participant at the weekend meeting has cut its oil production to around 1.5 million barrels a day in the past month compared with its Opec quota of 2.5 million barrels because of its war with Iraq and is attempting to get customers to accept higher prices to cover

increased production costs.

Iran is also coming under pressure from Abu Dhabi which has indicated it may be prepared to give increased discounts in its light-crudes, further undercutting Iranian prices but bringing them closer to rates for the heavier crudes which are now selling well.

Disagreement over how the differentials should be adjusted

at the last full ministerial meeting of Opec in Geneva at the end of December led to often heated exchanges between member countries, although light crude prices were cut by 25 cents a barrel and heavy crude prices raised by 50 cents.

Opec is anxious that a new agreement can be reached, but any concerted proposals by the dominant Gulf state grouping will be regarded with suspicion by the other light-crude producers, notably Nigeria and Libya.

However, there is disagreement on the issue between the Gulf states themselves. The Iraqi oil minister said yesterday Opec must "solve the differential problem fairly so as to provide the proper environment for the equitable competitiveness of all Opec crudes".

The present differential structure is exerting downward pressure on Iraq at a time when it is doing its best to stick to the Opec price and output structure he added.

N Sea wells record

A record number of wells were drilled last year in the North Sea - 275 compared with 226 in 1983. Petroleum Information Ltd says the success ratio for exploration wells was one in four and during 1984 100 drilling rigs were deployed in the North Sea compared with 88 operational in 1983. Shell, BP and Conoco remain the area's three most active operators.

The opportunities for Britain's oil industry to help China develop its offshore and onshore oil and gas resources have been markedly improved by the agreement on the future of Hong Kong, Dr Kea Forrest, director of the Offshore Supply Office "marine Unit", said in London yesterday.

"Winning a share of China's offshore market may require several years of hard work and careful negotiation. This and will continue to be a fiercely contested world market. These early stages are crucial for UK industry," he said.

Warburg discloses Fleet stake

By Philip Robinson

Warburg Investment Management yesterday disclosed a 15 per cent shareholding in Fleet Holdings, the national newspaper and magazines group where United Newspapers bought a similar stake from Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, on Tuesday.

The WIM disclosure means that 42.24 per cent of Fleet, publisher of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star* is in the hands of five shareholders. Speculation of a full bid for Fleet has increased sharply in the past 24 hours.

Fleet's five biggest shareholders are: United Newspapers, Warburg Investment Management, the BBC pension fund, the Prudential and Lord Matthews, the Fleet chairman.

In the stock market last night, the group's shares firmed a further 5p to a record 234p at that level. The WIM stake is worth £29.7 million. It topped up its holding yesterday morning, buying 100,000 shares at around 220p a share. It has picked up around 1 million shares this week.

United Newspapers paid £30.6 million for its own shares for the 15.76 per cent of Fleet previously owned by Mr Maxwell, publisher of *Mirror* Group Newspapers. The deal gives United an 18.25 per cent stake.

Under takeover rules, United cannot buy further shares until next Tuesday morning. Mr David Stevens, United chairman, said last night: "We have

no present intention of increasing our stake and we will not be buying more shares on Tuesday."

He declined to comment on a private meeting last Tuesday with Lord Matthews.

Mr Alan Irvine, Fleet chief executive, said last night: "We are as relaxed as any major public company where a discretionary fund holds such a large stake on behalf of institutions."

Two months ago WIM held 15 per cent of games maker John Waddington. Its decision to place the shares with institutions friendly to the board effectively supplanted Mr Maxwell's unwanted takeover bid.

Recovery in profits at Dowty and Davy

By Jeremy Warner



Beryl Sprinkel: may be removed from US Treasury.

Sprinkel may head advisers

From Bailey Morris Washington

Speculation is growing that Mr Beryl Sprinkel, Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the US Treasury, will be named as head of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

As the jobs shift continues in the Administration, Mr Sprinkel has emerged as the only strong candidate for the CEA post which has been vacant since the resignation of Mr Martin Feldstein, who left to return to a teaching position at Harvard University.

Mr Sprinkel, the strongest non-economist in the Administration, has often clashed with European officials and with his own Treasury colleagues over his dogmatic statements on free market principles and currency intervention.

White House officials said the President is seriously considering his appointment to the CEA which he has decided to maintain, at least temporarily, despite earlier rumours that he planned to abolish it as unnecessary.

Mr James Baker III, the current White House Chief of Staff, is expected to be confirmed as the new Treasury Secretary some time next month.

Dowty Group, the aerospace, electronics and mining equipment manufacturer, yesterday reported a dramatic 69 per cent recovery in its profits for the half-year to the end of September, with shares surging 24p to 216p.

There was also news that the slow recovery in the profits of Davy Corporation, Britain's leading process engineering group, continued during the same period. At the pre-tax level, profits rose from £3 million to £4.3 million helped by the cost-cutting effects of Davy's three-year rationalization programme.

Pre-tax profits at Dowty Group leapt from £11.9 million to £20.1 million shrugging aside the adverse effects of the miners' strike and heavy redundancy costs at the company's high mining equipment division. The strike may have cost the group up to £2 million in lost profits. The interim dividend is being increased from 1.7p to 2.2p.

Sir Robert Hunt, Dowty's chairman, also gave warning that although the group would continue to make progress producing a satisfactory year-end result, the surge in first-half profits partly reflected recovery

from a damaging internal strike and would not be mirrored in the second half.

Favourable exchange rate movements added about £600,000 to Dowty's half-year profits.

Mr Peter Benson, Davy's chairman, said that business was still difficult, particularly in the United States petroleum and chemical sectors. But the group's rationalization programme which has knocked about £50 million off group costs over the past two-and-a-half years in engineering construction, meant that the present order intake was at a level that matches capacity.

Prospects for the group in West Germany are now "very good", Mr Benson said. The company recently won power station contracts worth £85 million at Buschhaus and Offenbach and together with the buoyant market for synthetic fibre plants, this has ensured a considerable upturn in the workload of Davy's German operation.

Mr Benson said he expected to see an improvement in profits for the year as a whole. The interim dividend has been left unchanged at 1.1p.

\$150m Eurodollar bond from BP

British Petroleum is to come to the Eurodollar market for the first time since 1966 with a bond offering to raise \$150 million.

The co-lead managers are S. G. Warburg and Morgan Guaranty. Final terms are still to be set, but the seven-year bond will carry a coupon of 11 1/2 per cent and will be priced at par. The public offering will be next month.

BP said yesterday the proceeds will offset dollar exchange rate and interest rate exposures worldwide. The issue is the first big public move by the recently established BP Finance International.

Home loans rate rise may vary

By Richard Thomson

The Building Societies Association is likely to suggest today a mortgage rate increase of 1 to 1.5 from around 12 per cent after a meeting of all its members. But points individual societies may choose not to raise their rates immediately.

The BSA no longer has the power to set advised rates for the industry, and it is up to each society to set its own levels. Disagreement about when and by how much to increase rates could lead to sharp competition, as in September. Mr Cyril English, chief general manager of Nationwide, the third-largest society, said yesterday: "If our rates were right for the lower level of base rates last week, they cannot be right now."

But Mr Brian Firmin, of Abbey National, the second biggest said: "We want to wait until the sterling and interest rate situation steadies before moving our rates."

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak and secretary of the Conservative Finance Committee, yesterday appealed to the societies not to raise mortgage rates for at least a month. "The rise in interest rates to protect the pound, is obviously intended to be short term," he said. An increase of 1.25 percentage points on mortgage rates would add about 60p for every £1,000 borrowed to ordinary monthly net repayments.

IN BRIEF

Index at record

The stock market advanced strongly on overseas buying coming predominantly from the US. The FT 30 index reached a new peak at 989.7 in the morning and closed slightly lower, but still at a new closing high of 986.8, up 5.5 on the day. The FT-SE 100 index closed 6.3 higher at 1260.4, just below its peak.

The influx of American buying was aided by another small downward shift in the value of the pound. It closed at \$1.185, down 0.1 cents.

Market report, page 21

Berisford rise

S & W Berisford, the commodities group, raised pretax profits for the year to the end of September from £55.6 million to £80.2 million. Earnings per share were 32.79p against 22.13p. But the share price fell 2p to 180p.

Tempus, page 21

MFI, the furniture group, has increased pretax profits to £19 million for the 26 weeks to November 24, 1984, up from £15.6 million. Turnover rose from £136.2 million to £156.6 million. The interim dividend is increased to 2p from 1.7p last time.

Tempus, page 21

Liberal Norway

Norway is expected to approve today the entry of seven leading foreign banks - Samuel Montagu with three French and three American banks - in its bid to liberalize its oil-rich economy.

Inflation stable

Consumer prices rose by only 0.2 per cent in the Western industrial world in November, indicating a stable inflation rate of 5.1 per cent over a year. The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday in Paris.

The new name for Hambro Life, the unit-linked life assurance company founded by Mr Mark Weinberg, is to be announced at a conference for the company's salesmen today. Originally associated with Hambro bank, Hambro Life separated from it last year during negotiations with Charterhouse J. Rothschild; as a condition of the separation, Hambro Life has to drop "Hambro" from its name. The company was bought by the tobacco group, BAT Industries, in December.

Dixons profits

Sales at Dixons advanced by 31 per cent to £212 million in the 28 weeks to November 10, and pretax profits jumped by 64 per cent to over £12.5 million. The interim dividend goes up by 20 per cent to 1.92p. Earnings per share rose from 11.7p to 15.1p.

Tempus, page 2

Rates hold

The Central committee of the Bundesbank, the West German central bank, decided yesterday to leave unchanged both its discount and Lombard rates despite pressure from the US to now near 3.30 Deutschmarks.

Curbs critic

Opening the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's New York headquarters yesterday, the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Edward Youde, said that US textile protectionism had disrupted trade and caused great hardship in the colony.

Ex-CEGB chief attacks coal policy

By Jnnathan Davis Business Correspondent

The Government was sharply criticised last night by a former nationalized industry chairman for trying to run the National Coal Board as if it was simply a commercial private sector company without any wider obligations to society.

Mr Glyn England, who was chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board until 1982, accused Government ministers of failing to realise that state industries had a wider role beyond the mere pursuit of profit.

He likened the list of strategic objectives which Mr Nigel Lawson, the then Energy Secretary, had given Mr Ian MacGregor on his appointment as chairman of the National Coal Board to the "brief that would be given to a company doctor called in to an ailing private company".

As an answer, Mr England said, this was "woefully incomplete".

"It is not possible that this country would now be a happier, less divided and even in strictly monetary terms more wealthy if Nigel Lawson as Secretary of State for Energy had had the wisdom to include in the original objectives some element of caring, some recognition that the objectives of a public enterprise can be different from those of a company in the private sector."

Mr England, who was effectively dismissed by Mr Lawson as CEBG chairman three years ago, suggested that Mr MacGregor's remit should have in-



Glyn England: state industries have a wider role.

cluded a clause specifying the amount of Government or coal board money to be spent on seeking new employment opportunities for those communities hardest hit by the board's "internal drive for efficiency".

The coal board did in fact set up a job creation subsidiary NCB (Enterprise) Ltd last October, but said Mr England: "It is a little late to recognise the value of that approach when you are many months into an industrial dispute". He did not however say how he would have reacted as chairman of the CEBG if he had been asked to pick up the bill for meeting the coal board's social costs in the form of higher electricity prices.

Speaking in a lecture at Bradford University, Mr England combined his attack on the Government's handling of the coal industry with other criticisms of the way the present Government has dealt with the nationalized industries.

£3.61 million bid for Butterfield

Technology Incorporated, the US industrial and aerospace company, has launched a £3.61 million bid for Butterfield-Harvey, the mechanical engineering company in which it already holds a 11.1 per cent stake.

An agreed bid was not reached despite several weeks of talks. However, TI holds options and conversion rights in Butterfield which, if exercised, would give it 55.1 per cent of the enlarged capital.

If necessary, TI intends to exercise its options to give it a controlling stake. The offer is 25p for each ordinary share. Butterfield shares closed at 22 1/2.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
FT Ind Ord	987.2 (+5.9)
FT-A All Share	808.39 (+3.86)
FT Gov Securities	79.73 (+0.44)
FT-SE 100	1,260.4 (+6.3)
Bargains: 25,580	
Datastream USM	105.39 (+0.34)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,225.04 (-5.64)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,887.19 (-45.83)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1,388.42 (+28.81)
Amsterdam	191.0 (-0.4)
Sydney: AO	739.7 (+5.4)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1,151.8 (+2.3)
Basels	
General	100.58 (-29.58)
Paris: CAC	190.1 (+0.3)
Zurich:	
SKA General	334.40 (-0.4)
GOLD	
London fixing:	
am \$305.90 pm \$305.50	
close \$304.75-\$305.25	
(£272.25-£272.75)	
New York:	
Comex \$307.15	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RISES:	
Mainnet Holdings	49p +10p
Dunlop Holdings	31.5p +9.5p
SGB Group	1.68p +28p
Dakwood Group	80p +15p
D J Security Alarm	88p +13p
Eurochem Int'l	340p +45p
Electronic Machine	16.5p +2p
Monument Oil & Gas	42p +5p
Butterfield-Harvey	27p +3p
Dowty Group	22.5p +2.5p
Bodycote International	216p +25p
TV Services Int'l	7p +3p
Ciler	218p +20p
Park Place Inv	20p +2p
H P Bulmar	169p +15p
A M Hira	17.5p +1.5p
Neil & Spencer	47p +4p
Pramier Consolidated	48p +4p
FALLS:	
W G Allan (Tipton)	22p -4p
Barbican	4.25p -0.5p
Davy Corp	45p -8p
KCA Drilling	22p -2p
Metal Sciences	12p -1p
Howard Machinery	12p -1p
Breville Europe	13p -1p

CURRENCIES	
London:	
£ \$1.185 (-0.0010)	
DM 3.5585 (-0.00024)	
Sw 2.2092 (-0.0030)	
FF 10.9046 (-0.0284)	
Yan 284.73 (-0.877)	
Index: 71.2 (-0.1)	
New York:	
£ \$1.180	
DM 3.562	
Index: 146.5 (Unchanged)	
INTEREST RATES	
London:	
Bank Base: 12%	
3-month interbank 12 1/2%-12%	
3-month eligible bills buying rate 11 1/2%-11 3/4%	
US:	
Prime Rate 10.50%	
Federal Funds 8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills 7.74% (7.70%)	
Long bond 10 1/4%	

SGB GROUP

INCREASED EARNINGS AND DIVIDEND

Preliminary Announcement
Year ended 25th September 1984

	1983 £'000	1984 £'000
Group Turnover	160,418	177,465
Group Profit before Tax	7,243	11,007
Group Profit after Tax and Minorities	4,061	7,763
Shareholders' Funds	*62,978	69,291
Earnings per Share	9.7p	18.4p

*After transfer of £12,200m to deferred provisions of Fire and Acc 1984 and £1,220m being prior years' stock loss in Australia.

Profits reached £14m in the UK. Overseas, there was an overall loss largely due to Australia and North America and to lower Middle East demand for our products.

The current year has started well and profits should continue to improve.

Dividend. At the annual general meeting to be held on 19th March, 1985, a final dividend of 4.0p per share (1983 3.3p) will be recommended, resulting in a total dividend of 6.3p for the year (1983 5.6p).

The full Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on Wednesday, 20th February, 1985.

SGB Group plc,
Milton, Surrey CR4 4TQ

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Holidays: Big is not best

By Derek Harris

British holidaymakers need the small tour operators, who handle about a third of all foreign package deals involving charter air travel, insists John Lucraft, chairman of the Association of Independent Tour Operators.

Mr Lucraft, who also runs a small package tour company, is angry at the prediction by Harry Goodman, chairman of Intasun Leisure - Britain's No. 2 package holiday operator - that up to 300 tour operators are likely to disappear.

Mr Goodman has forecast that these firms may pull out or go out of business because of money problems. And he says the bigger operators will get bigger.

The Civil Aviation Authority, which licences operators, defines a small tour operator as one who carries 50,000 or fewer holiday-makers a year. And there are about 600 in this category.

Mr Goodman's forecast came after nearly twenty tour operators collapsed during 1984 and he argues that half the present number would be a more sensible spread for the British industry - but allowing that there will always be a place for the specialist operator.

Mr Lucraft says: "Small specialist companies are just as safe and secure for the consumer as the really big companies. There is exactly the same financial protection through bonds with the CAA to safeguard the



John Lucraft: Firms in danger

holidaymaker. When a big operator goes bust far more people are inconvenienced than are ever affected by small companies' troubles.

A small company is more flexible and likely to try harder because of the usually considerable personal commitment of directors, for instance in guaranteeing bank loans for the business. Mr Lucraft claims: "They put more into running the business and less into tourism politics."

He criticises the big firms for increasing incursions into more specialist areas, saying: "They do not do it as well. The head of a small operation will have stayed at the hotels used, will know the manager

and will contract for rooms personally - and is much less likely to be overbooked than is one of the big companies." And small operators do not have as many problems in consolidating flight plans when bookings are below expectations.

Mr Lucraft's own company runs Young World in the main season, offering holidays to people in their twenties, and Snow World with a range of winter sports holidays.

He maintains that the market for the typical standard package holiday is static but that the specialist sector is growing.

Four operator gross profit margins are narrow - below the 10 per cent most retail agents get - but are often better to the specialist sector, according to Mr Lucraft, which allows for improved service. He also argues that specialists provide ground representatives to a ratio of one to every 40 clients compared with about one for every 100 in the mass market.

To obtain a full tour licence an operator must carry a minimum of 2,000 holidaymakers, says Mr Lucraft. This implies permanent headquarter staffing of two to three people. A bond, guaranteeing cash within 24 hours has to be provided to the CAA, equivalent to 10 per cent of company turnover, which means £50,000 to £60,000 for the smallest operation and requires insurance or bank funding against seizure.

For small businesses from other legislation. Bill Poeton, president of the Union of Independent Companies and a special adviser to the Institute of Directors, says that if the Bill becomes law it would be a route to fundamental reform. With the Prime Minister's known commitment to small business, the Bill seems to stand a good chance. Perhaps to rescue it from the uncertainties besetting any Private Member's Bill the Government might consider picking up the key ideas and incorporating them in legislation.

Sunderland scheme
Sunderland Polytechnic Small Business Centre is planning a recovery programme to help small businesses with problems to pull through to recovery and growth. The programme will take up a morning and evening one day each week starting in March.

Contact: Small Business Centre, Department of Business Management, Sunderland Polytechnic, 1-4 Thornhill Park, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR2 7JZ; phone: (0783) 41231.

One Bill your firm might welcome

Michael Grylls, chairman of the Small Business Bureau, is due to introduce a Bill for second reading in the Commons today that could do a lot to change Whitehall's attitude to small businesses (Derek Harris writes).

The Bill's main provision compels every departmental Secretary of State to report annually to Parliament on what his department has done to help smaller businesses.

Mr Grylls said: "The objective is to protect the interests of owner-managed businesses against abuse both from big business and the over-complications of government legislation." One likelihood would be that departments would simplify more laws and regulations affecting smaller businesses.

Departments would be expected to look for ways of stimulating small business and would be empowered to make exemptions

Small retailers had a happier Christmas than their larger rivals, but it doesn't look like the start of a new trend (Derek Harris writes).

For the first time in the 18 months of the CBI/Financial Times survey, the small shops - accounting for around half of small businesses in Britain - reported a larger growth in sales than the big chains.

Only confectionery, tobacco and

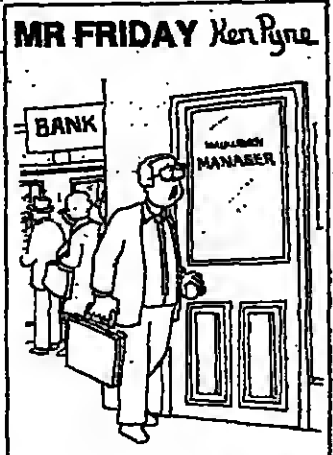
newspaper shops reported a fall. Since the survey started small firms have been running behind the multiple. Only Easter 1984 saw sales reports at the same level.

For some years the multiples have been consistently scooping up additional market share at the expense mainly of the independents and the co-operative retail societies. New-style convenience stores, open from early mornings until late at

night, are being launched in increasing numbers.

The unusual pattern of the 1984 Christmas period selling looks to be the likeliest reason for the smaller shops doing better. Christmas trade was slack until the beginning of December but in the late rush records were broken.

● *18th monthly CBI/Financial Times Survey of the Distributive Trades.*



"My New Year's resolution to give up travelling is about to face its ultimate test"

A Christmas boom... but high sales won't last

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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Centenary battle rages in Midland car cities

France celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of the motor car last year. We in Britain are gearing up to celebrate the centenary this year while Germany insists that both Common Market partners have got it wrong, and that they should join their centenary celebrations at the birthplace of the car next year.

Britain does not make any claim to be the mother of the motorcar. Production started here 100 years after the Continent, so rather than get involved in the rival claims of the French and Germans, our compromise was 1985.

The controversy is an old one. Rival claims have been advanced by many countries and are based on some pretty flimsy evidence. I tend to go along with the Germans. At least their claim is backed by the factual evidence of the patents granted to Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz in 1886.

Never short of an argument, however, these bitter Midland rivals, Birmingham and Coventry, are now locked in combat over which is the home of the British motor industry. Birmingham says Herbert Austin's first horseless carriage was produced in the city in 1895 beating Coventry by one year. Daimler cars were first built under licence in Coventry in 1896.

But the controversy does not end there. Coventry has given a contract to International Festival Services of Birmingham to organize its year-long programme of centenary events. And Mr Hoar is the man behind Birmingham City Council's plans to take over Moate Carlo's endangered role as the top European round-the-boulevard car racing circuit.

The big event of the year looks set to be Motor 100 which is being staged between May 25 and 27 at the Silverstone Racing Circuit near Towcester, Northamptonshire. About 8,000 cars, commercial vehicles, and motorcycles will be involved in displays and demonstrations, most of them provided by manufacturers and marque clubs.

A special set of stamps is being

issued by the Isle of Man Post Office to coincide with Motor 100.

GTi pick-up

Now that they have settled their long wrangle with the Government about its country of origin, Volkswagen is at last importing the Yugoslavian assembled Golf Caddy pick-up and demand is even better than anticipated. The original plan called for 1,000 of the half-ton plus pick-ups to be sold here this year. First shipment only arrived last month, and already there are more than 1,000 orders.

VAG, the UK importer for VW/Audi, is already urging Volkswagen to increase shipments. At the same time it is trying to cash in on the American craze for customizing pick-ups with thousands of dollars' worth of personal "goodies" including souped-up engines.

The standard 1.6 litre Caddy costs only £4,200 including VAT, but excluding car tax because it is classified as a commercial vehicle. In Germany, where the Caddy has been on sale for about three years, a roaring trade has started in the supply of body styling kits, special wheels, seats and engine tune-ups. They too are being imported here and can easily double the original price.

First into the customizing field in Britain is GTi Engineering of Silverstone, who will build a Caddy with anything from £400 worth of body extras to a full racing job using one of its reworked 1.8 engines, and costing an additional £4,000.

The original import problem? The British Government said that because they were assembled in Yugoslavia, they could not be admitted as tax-free EEC imports. The Germans got around that by insisting that every Caddy was returned to Germany for testing and final adjustment before sale. You cannot stretch the regulations much further than that.

Weather beater

Saabs are not everybody's cup of tea. Saab enthusiasts - and there are



Golf Caddy; Cashing in on customizing craze

plenty of them about - never grow tired of telling anyone who will listen how good they are. But you will find just as many motorists who regard them as ugly ducklings, very Scandinavian in concept, and expensive.

On one important aspect however, there is general agreement. They are among the best weather cars in the world. Drawing first on their expertise as aircraft manufacturers and then practical experience of coping with eight months long bitter Swedish winters, has enabled Saab engineers to give their cars all the requirements for safe driving in just the extremes of weather we have been wrestling with recently.

Within hours of the test model being delivered, a two litre fuel injected version of the Saab 900, I woke to find three inches of snow in the drive and the Saab covered by a frozen layer of snow and ice. It was not the best start to a long motorway journey with an aircraft departure time to meet.

The engine fired first beat, and then with the remarkably powerful and versatile heating system going full blast in the de-icing mode, I left it running while I grabbed a last cup of coffee.

When I returned I found to my surprise that the windscreen was clearing fast, snow was sliding windows were beginning to thaw. It took only a couple of minutes more with the soft side of my scraping tool to have perfect visibility.

Inside the car I was able to discard my outer garments and set out in comfort at 6.30am on a freezing cold morning with my sleeves rolled up.

But that is only half the requirement for bad weather driving. The other is safe, predictable handling, with controls and instruments doing their jobs so efficiently you are able to give your whole concentration to the appalling road conditions and the antics of less well equipped cars around you.

Power steering and icy roads are not the best of combinations. The mechanical assistance used to remove the physical effort out of turning the steering wheel fre-

quently removes all sense of feel in the hands to what is happening to the front wheels. They have been sliding for that extra fraction of a second before you get the message. And then it is too late.

With a car driven by the front wheels like the Saab, it is doubly important to have earliest possible warning and thank heavens Saab has got the balance just right - a little heavier than some, but spot-on when the going gets tough.

The 900s come in four styles, three-door hatchback, five-door hatchback, two-door saloon, and four-door saloon. Mine was the five

Vital Statistics:

Model: Saab 900i five-door
Price: £3,850
Engine: 1985cc, four cylinder, fuel injected
Performance: 0-60mph 11.6 secs, max speed 100mph
Official consumption: Urban 22.7mpg, 56mpg, 39mpg and 75mpg, 29.1mpg
Length: 15.1ft
Insurance: Group 6

door hatchback. To that guise it has a surprisingly large luggage space for such a steeply raked rear. It is not the deepest arched, but stretches so far under the rear seats that several sets of golf clubs can be carried side by side to a fore and aft position.

The 900 has altered little. Changes in this year's model include a more powerful starter motor, improved shock absorbers, and new style wheels with lower profile tyres. There is also a four spoke steering wheel with twin horn buttons where they should be, and a more friendly type of roof lining.

Driven moderately, the five speed manual 900i should give you around 28 miles to the gallon. But it is not a cheap car at £3,850. The test model had the optional "S" pack boosting the price to £10,493. For that you get electric windows and exterior mirrors, sun roof, front spoiler, upholstered windows, more luxurious upholstery, folding centre armrest, centre console and head restraints for rear passengers.

Saab 900i: At its best in bad weather

SAAB 900i: At its best in bad weather

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